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'France will not cut Gulf fleet yet'

BAHRAIN (R) — France will not withdraw any more warships from the Gulf until peace talks between Iraq and Iran make progress, Rear-Admiral Guy Labouerie said Wednesday. Labouerie, commander of the French fleet in the Indian Ocean and the Gulf, told reporters on his flagship La Marse that France would keep two destroyers and a minesweeper in the waterway despite initial cutbacks following last August's ceasefire. "We have to remain attentive to what is going on and be cautious for the future," he said. "A war which has lasted eight years cannot be ended in one month... It will probably take two to three years before both parties have reached a satisfactory agreement." Labouerie said France would consider withdrawing one destroyer if peace talks showed signs of progress. The U.N.-brokered negotiations which began on Aug. 25 quickly became stalled. But attacks on shipping have ended and last September France pulled out three warships from the Gulf area, including the aircraft carrier Clemenceau. Labouerie said France had reduced its Indian Ocean fleet, which includes the Gulf warships, to 15 vessels from a maximum of 29 during the height of hostilities.

Egypt readmitted to Arab group

DAMASCUS (AP) — Egypt was readmitted Wednesday to full membership in an Arab League-sponsored agricultural organization in a move that hinted at possible Syrian willingness to patch up a 10-year-old rift with Cairo. Syrian Agriculture Minister Mohammad Gabbache said that farm ministers and officials from 18 Arab states and Palestine unanimously decided "to halt the suspension of Egypt's membership with immediate effect." The move was announced at the end of a three-day meeting in Damascus of the pan-Arab Organisation for Agricultural Development. Syrian officials noted that the meeting was held under the personal auspices of President Hafez Assad. In the past, the Syrian leader has spoken out harshly against Arab reconciliation with Egypt. "This decision indicates a common desire to consolidate pan-Arab action and help our Egyptian brothers get rid as soon as possible of the bonds of the Camp David accords," Agriculture Minister Mohammad Gabbache said. Earlier this month, Syria agreed to resume diplomatic relations with Morocco after a 30-month gap. Assad broke ties with Rabat in July 1986 to protest a meeting between King Hassan and the then Israel Prime Minister, Shimon Peres.

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AROUND THE WORLD...

Taba dispute near end

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — Israel and the United States voiced optimism Wednesday that a seven-year Israeli-Egyptian dispute over Taba, a Red Sea beach, could be solved by next year. U.S. State Department legal adviser Abraham Sofaer met Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir on the eve of three-way negotiations at the disputed Taba beach resort and told Israeli newspapers he expected a solution by the weekend. The talks Thursday will centre on ownership of a five-star hotel and a topless holiday village and access to the area for Israelis once Israel hands the 700-metre beachfront back to Egypt. An international arbitration panel last year upheld Egypt's case on the border. "We do have every intention of finishing this issue, this small issue, as soon as possible," Foreign Ministry spokesman Mordechai Amichai told reporters. He said the talks could be wrapped up by Friday midday, or at the latest with another session next week.

N. Yemeni premier arrives in Baghdad

NICOSIA, Cyprus (AP) — North Yemeni Prime Minister Abdul Aziz Abduh Ghani arrived in Baghdad Wednesday for an official visit, the official Iraqi News Agency reported. The agency, monitored in Nicosia, quoted Abdul Ghani as saying on arrival that his visit was intended to boost bilateral ties and coordinate joint aims. Abdul Ghani's talks with Iraqi officials will focus on the continuing Palestinian uprising in the Israeli-occupied territories and other Middle East developments, the agency said.

Gorbachev meets Western statesmen

MOSCOW (R) — Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev met three statesmen from France, Japan and the United States Wednesday who are examining developments in East-West relations. Soviet news agency TASS said. It said Gorbachev met former French President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, former Japanese Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone and former U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger. TASS disclosed no details of the meeting, but said the three were "studying new perspectives in East-West relations." The three are part of a delegation of the Trilateral Commission — a non-governmental organisation examining policies of Western industrialised nations.

Soviets say Berlin Wall must stay

VIENNA (R) — The Soviet Union and East Germany Wednesday rejected calls from the U.S., Britain and West Germany at the European Security Conference for removal of the Berlin Wall, arguing it must stay in place for the moment. At the same time, hard-line East Bloc states hit back at criticism from U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz over their human rights record, with Romania and Czechoslovakia accusing him of interfering in their domestic affairs. "The wall is not a relic of the cold war but a factor for stability in Europe," East German Foreign Minister Oskar Fischer told reporters before meeting West Germany's Hans-Dietrich Genscher who earlier called the wall an "anachronistic relic." He said it could only go "when the reasons for its construction no longer exist." East Germany has always argued that the wall was built in 1961 as protection against Western efforts to undermine it politically and economically.

Czechs allowed to demonstrate

PRAGUE (R) — More than 5,000 people — many chanting demands for freedom, human rights and "Gorbachev" — demonstrated in central Prague Wednesday but for the first time in four days of protests police did not intervene. In a direct reversal of violent tactics against demonstrators in the city's Wenceslas Square, witnesses said police made no move to disperse the crowd after Czechoslovakia came under heavy criticism at the European Security Conference in Vienna (see story on page 8).

Lawyer says Marcos is dying

NEW YORK (Agencies) — Ousted Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos is dying and would be unable to face the rigours of a trial on conspiracy and corruption charges, his lawyer said Wednesday. The comment was contained in a letter sent to Federal Judge John Keenan by lawyer Richard Hibel and released here. "We have been advised by the last doctor who examined President Marcos that he is dying," Hibel's letter said. Meanwhile Marcos was offered to return an undisclosed amount of money stashed in Swiss banks in exchange for permission to return home, the Philippine Senate President said Wednesday. Sen. Jovito Salonga, former chief of a government body assigned to recover Marcos' fortune, said the offer was made in an August 1988 letter. Salonga said it was the second such offer made by Marcos.

Psychiatrists say Hammadi not insane

FRANKFURT, West Germany (R) — Psychiatrists testified Wednesday that suspected Lebanese hijacker Mohammad Ali Hammadi was mentally fit, damaging a defence bid to have him acquitted of a murder charge by reason of insanity. Hammadi is on trial in West Germany for murder and air piracy. The charges stem from the June 1985 hijacking of a Trans World Airlines plane during which a U.S. passenger was shot dead. Psychiatrists said medical tests performed on him in recent weeks upheld his assertion that he had suffered serious injuries in Lebanon's civil war but showed no signs of mental illness.

Bush opens inaugural ceremonies

WASHINGTON (R) — President-elect Bush, kicking off inaugural ceremonies, saluted America's teachers Wednesday by renewing his campaign pledge to be the education president. But discouraging new trade figures released by the Commerce Department highlighted the economic problems the incoming U.S. leader faces. Bush, who had no immediate comment on word that the trade deficit rose by more than 22 per cent in November to \$12.51 billion, told a selected group of teachers from across the country: Education will be on my desk and on my mind every day right from the start.

Venezuelan leader arrives in Baghdad

BAGHDAD (AP) — Venezuelan President-elect Carlos Andres Perez arrived in Iraq Wednesday to seek support for an OPEC summit meeting to stabilise the oil market and boost solidarity in the 13-member cartel. Andres Perez was greeted at Baghdad airport by Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz. He was to hold talks with President Saddam Hussein and other senior officials during a 24-hour visit. Venezuelan embassy officials said. The Venezuelan president-elect flew to Baghdad from Tehran, where he said his talks with Iranian officials were positive, the Islamic Republic News Agency reported.

1 killed in Greece factory blast

PATRAS, Greece (AP) — One man was killed and two others were slightly injured Wednesday after a powerful blast tore through an explosives factory near this southern port city, police said. A police spokesman said Giorgos Sarandopoulos, 55, was killed in the blast at the Nicolaos Pappas explosives company. Two other men were hospitalised at Patras General Hospital where they were listed in stable condition, said the spokesman, who requested anonymity in accordance with Greek practice.

Baker: New administration will continue talks with PLO

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Arab-Israeli conflict is the most stubborn problem facing U.S. diplomacy, Secretary of State-designate James Baker said Wednesday. He also said the Bush administration will continue the dialogue with the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

Answering questions on the second day of confirmation hearings before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Baker said the United States would continue to prod the two sides toward the negotiating table.

"But we all ought to be realistic about the prospects of a breakthrough," he added. "There is no more intractable problem facing us."

The United States will also continue its efforts to bring peace among Lebanon's warring factions, "but again, there too we're limited in what we can do."

Baker's reception by the committee was as friendly as on his first day of testimony Tuesday, and the panel was expected to confirm his nomination by week's end. The full senate will act later.

Baker said the administration would continue the dialogue begun last month with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) as a step toward direct Arab-Israeli peace talks. The talks will be used to convey abhorrence of terrorism to the PLO and should not be construed as a lessening of support for Israel, he added.

In a sweeping review of his foreign policy plans Tuesday, Baker pledged to adhere broadly to President Ronald Reagan's policy of withstanding Soviet expansion around the world. He said President-elect George Bush also believed in that policy.

"Trust but verify is a good standard," he said, referring to Reagan's maxim in dealing with the Soviets.

He cautioned that "however fascinating the twists and turns of perestroika (Soviet restructuring) may be, and however, riveting the details of Soviet decline as reported in Soviet newspapers, the Soviet Union remains a heavily armed superpower."

The Soviets give Nicaragua \$1 billion every year for weapons

and food, and \$4 to \$5 billion go to Communist Cuba, Baker said.

In one indication of a possible departure from the past, Baker said the Bush administration would not resume talks with the Soviets on halving their long-range nuclear missile stocks until a review of the negotiations is conducted in Washington.

Calming concerns by some senators, Baker said he believed the strategic missile talks should be pursued on merit and not be linked to other issues such as East-West talks that begin in March on reducing conventional arms in Europe.

He also called for a review of U.S. policy toward South Africa, saying the economic sanctions imposed by Congress over Reagan's objections had failed to dent apartheid policies of the government. Congress and the administration must have a unified policy in order to succeed, he said.

High on the agenda of his office will be a push for an international treaty banning the use and production of chemical weapons, Baker said.

Iraq denies having bioweapons; warns Israel against strike

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq Wednesday denied producing biological weapons and warned Israel against any attempt to attack its facilities.

"Israel should not delude itself that what it did in June 1981 against the nuclear reactor... can be repeated because Iraq is capable of defending itself and retaliating for any aggression," an Information Ministry spokesman said.

Two U.S. television networks

claimed Tuesday that Iraq was developing weapons to spread cholera, typhoid, anthrax and other diseases. They claimed Israel had warned Iraq to stop or face an attack like that in June 1981, which destroyed the Osirak Atomic Reactor.

Israel alleged the reactor was built to develop nuclear weapons... a charge Baghdad denied.

The spokesman, quoted by the Iraqi News Agency, denied Iraq had received any such warning

but said it would strongly reject it if it did.

"The spokesman asserted that Iraq does not produce such weapons and does not need them for defensive purposes," the agency added.

An Israeli official told Reuters Wednesday his country had information that Baghdad had developed such weapons but did not yet have the means to use them on the battlefield.

Lebanese rivals agree to Arab League talks

BEIRUT (AP) — Leaders of rival Lebanese cabinets have agreed to cooperate with the 22-member Arab League in a bid to prevent the formal partition of Lebanon, officials reported Wednesday.

Acting Prime Minister Salim Al Hoss said he would leave for Tunis later this month for talks with a special committee of the league on ways to resolve a four-month-old political crisis that threatens to cement Lebanon's partition into sectarian cantons.

"We are prepared to cooperate with the Arab League committee," Hoss told the Associated Press.

"Tentatively, I will leave for Tunis to meet the committee on Jan. 28," he said.

The committee, headed by Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Sabah, was formed in Tunis last Thursday at a meeting of Arab foreign ministers.

It also comprises the foreign ministers of Sudan, Tunisia, Algeria, Jordan and the United Arab Emirates and Arab League Secretary-General Chadi Klibi.

Parliament Speaker Hussein Hussein will also meet the committee in Tunis later this month, his office announced.

A political source in east Beirut said army commander Michel Aoun, who heads rival military cabinet, also "welcomed the Arab League's interest in the

Lebanese situation and expressed readiness to cooperate with the committee."

The source, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Aoun "would decide on the level of his representation at any meeting with the committee after he formally receives an invitation, which is expected later this week."

Hoss and Hussein were invited by Kuwaiti envoys to meet the committee when the Lebanese officials visited Damascus Tuesday.

The Kuwaiti diplomats, Abdul Mohsen Al Gaian and Ahmad Ibn Al Jassem, were expected to visit east Beirut later this week to deliver Sabah's invitation to Aoun, the independent Al Nahar daily said.

While they were in Damascus, Hoss and Hussein met Syrian Vice President Abdul Halim Khaddam and discussed efforts by the committee to resolve the Lebanese crisis and facilitate the election of a new president to succeed Amin Gemayel, whose term expired Sept. 22.

Parliamentary efforts to elect a successor failed when Christian deputies boycotted the electoral sessions.

Minutes before he stepped down, Gemayel appointed Aoun head of an interim military cabinet to rule Lebanon until a new president was elected.

Botha suffers mild stroke

CAPE TOWN (R) — President P.W. Botha, who has led South Africa for more than a decade, suffered a mild stroke Wednesday and was admitted to a military hospital.

His spokesman said Botha, who turned 73 Thursday last week, was in stable condition.

Officials at his Tuynhuys office alongside the Cape Town parliament declined to give details of his condition, saying a statement would be released later.

But political sources said Botha was conscious and able to speak. The Argus newspaper said Botha became ill at his official Cape Town residence, Westbroek, and was taken by ambulance to the Wynberg Military Hospital about five kilometres away.

Opposition legislator Marius Barnard, a renowned heart surgeon, said he believed from

watching Botha in parliament and from "a certain weakness of his facial muscles" that he suffered a mild stroke about two years ago. "Perhaps he should think about taking it easy after this," he said.

Botha marked 10 years as head of South Africa's white minority government on Sept. 28 last year but gave no hint of planning to retire.

He returned to Cape Town at the weekend after a four-week holiday at his south coast country home and is due to open a new session of parliament on Feb. 3 with a traditional keynote address setting out his plans for the year.

His first official engagement of the year was to have been a meeting Friday with leaders of the interim government of Namibia about plans for the white-ruled territory's transition to independence.

Rabin under fire amid escalating army violence

Palestinians stage massive strike

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Palestinians in the occupied West Bank staged a general strike Wednesday to protest at mounting casualties from army gunfire and Israel's opposition blasted the government for its handling of the Palestinian uprising.

Palestinians said a leaflet signed by the uprising's underground leadership, the Unified National Command, called for the strike to "protest at ruthless Israeli policies and the killing of children."

Arab sources said residents observed the strike in most of the West Bank. Merchants closed shops and students left classrooms.

Palestinians said Israeli troops shot and wounded seven people in scattered protests Wednesday.

Military authorities said they were closing all schools in the towns of Ramallah, Birzeit, Qalqilya and Jenin from Thursday until Monday because of calls by Palestinian nationalists to boycott classes.

They said three other schools would be closed for 10 days.

Palestinians hurled two fire-bombs at a bus carrying workers to Israel near the West Bank village of Dayr Abu Mashal, police said. Two people were injured and the bus was gutted.

Amid growing concern by ministers over rising Arab casualties in the 13-month revolt, Israel's inner cabinet met to discuss army use of plastic bullets and other tactics.

Israeli Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin was shouted off the podium by critics as he tried to defend his new tough tactics for putting down the uprising.

Right-wing critics also criticised the government, saying it was not doing enough to end the uprising.

Rabin came under fire for his newest policy of allowing troops to shoot plastic or rubber bullets at stone throwers even as they flee and for expanding the number of troops allowed to shoot.

"As long as the residents of the (occupied) territories aren't ready to sit down at the negotiating table, as long as they respond with violence, rocks and bottles, they will not make us run away, they will not make us surrender. They will suffer," Rabin said.

He was interrupted by hecklers at least a dozen times before he stopped speaking and angrily took his seat. Some of the critics called for his resignation.

Among his detractors were Yossi Sarid of the Citizens' Rights Movement who said: "This policy is not only killing Palestinians but also the souls of Israeli soldiers. I say to you that for the sake of our future and our common destiny, ours and the

Palestinians... I say to you Mr. Defence Minister, go."

The debate was in response to no-confidence motions brought by eight factions against the government's handling of the latest violence upsurge in the occupied lands.

In East Jerusalem, police clashed for the second day with Arab protesters firing teargas and rubber bullets to break up protests. Israeli Radio said. A commercial strike in protest at a crackdown by Israeli tax authorities continued into its fifth day in the Gaza Strip, Palestinians said.

On Tuesday, the army destroyed three homes of Palestinians in Qalqilya. It was the first time such harsh measures were used against protesters.

On Wednesday, Palestinian merchants closed their shops and public transportation ground to a halt to protest the latest house destructions and the rash of deaths, reports said.

The house demolitions were part of a new army policy against protesters by wrecking or sealing their homes or confiscating their families' property, Chief of Staff Dan Shomron said Tuesday.

The United States voiced concern over the increase in West Bank violence Tuesday.

"We are deeply concerned over the rise in violent confrontations between Palestinians and Israelis which have resulted in increased injuries and deaths. We especially regret the loss of life," State Department spokesman Dennis Harter said at a news briefing.

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Amal-Hizbollah mediation deadlocked

BEIRUT (R) — Talks between Lebanon's top Shi'ite Muslim clerics to end almost three weeks of militia battles are deadlocked, Shi'ite sources said Wednesday.

"There are major differences. They have failed to reach any common points to solve the feud," one source said.

Pitched battles between Amal and Hizbollah have died down in the past few days during the talks. But individual killings and abductions continued in Beirut's southern suburbs and South Lebanon, the scenes of fierce battles which have killed 140 people since Jan. 1.

The two sides also traded accusations, with Hizbollah saying Amal had seized more than 350 people in the south and Amal charging Hizbollah with killing Amal captives.

The rivals have been competing for leadership of Lebanon's 1.5 million Shi'ites since 1984, when Hizbollah emerged with Iran's help to challenge Amal.

The Shi'ite sources said Hizbollah clerics, including its spiritual mentor Sheikh Mohammad Hussein Fadlallah, had reached a dead end in talks with Sheikh Mohammad Mehdi Shamseddine, vice-president of the Higher Shi'ite Council. But they said efforts would continue to end the bloodbath.

Amal sources said their militia

had delegated Shamseddine to negotiate with Hizbollah.

The Shi'ite sources said Hizbollah was demanding an overall political settlement with Amal, including a share in the control of South Lebanon and a major say in representing the Shi'ite community in internal politics.

Amal leader Nabih Berri told reporters Wednesday he wanted

an end to the fighting before any political solution.

"The overall reconciliation does not start when a knife is pointed at your neck. There should be first a security agreement then the door for a general solution will be open," he said.

A senior Amal official said Amal demanded the withdrawal of Hizbollah gunmen from the villages of Jubah and Ain Busrah in the southern Iqlim Al Tufah region.

"The militia in return will be ready to help provide guerrillas fighting Israel with weapons and

money," he said.

Amal forced Hizbollah militants out of most of the south in April last year. It has been battling this month to oust the pro-Iranians from their last bastion in the region.

Hizbollah has used Iqlim Al Tufah, stretching from Sidon to Israel's self-declared "security zone," to launch attacks against Israel and its local militia allies.

Hizbollah said Amal was besieging its positions in Iqlim Al Tufah and hampering its attacks against Israel.

Fadlallah urged the rival fight-

ers Tuesday to lay down their arms, saying he would continue contacts with Shamseddine.

Shamseddine Monday met Hizbollah leaders for the second time in four days.

"We delegated Sheikh Shamseddine to talk to Hizbollah but it seems Hizbollah wants to ruin any peace chance. They are putting obstacles in the face of all solutions," said an Amal spokesman.

Fadlallah said Tuesday that Iran had asked Syria, which has more than 25,000 troops in Lebanon, to launch an initiative to end the conflict.

Adel Osseiran, defence minister in Lebanon's civilian administration, told reporters a meeting in which Arab states and Iran would take part would be held in a new effort to end the fighting. He did not say when or where it would take place.

Senior sources in the government of acting Prime Minister Salim Hoss told Reuters efforts were under way to convene a meeting between Syria, Iran and the rival factions.

They said Hoss discussed the proposed meeting with officials in Damascus Tuesday.

The Iranian cabinet pledged support Wednesday for any plan which would end the clashes, Tehran Radio reported.

Syria pledges cooperation with panel

DAMASCUS (R) — Syria will support an Arab League ministerial committee in its efforts to resolve the political crisis in Lebanon, Syria's semi-official daily Al Thawra said Wednesday.

"Syria, which spared no effort in the past to enable Lebanon overcome its crisis, will extend all facilities to any sincere and honest Arab effort aimed at liberating Lebanon from the Zionist cancer and ensuring it belongs to the Arab Nation," it said.

Vice-President Abdul Halim Khaddam held talks in Damascus Tuesday with Lebanon's acting Prime Minister Salim Hoss on the committee's planned meeting

with Lebanese leaders later this month, officials said.

The six-member Arab League contact group, headed by Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed Al Sabah, has invited Hoss and Michel Aoun, head of Lebanon's rival military cabinet, to Tunis for talks.

Al Thawra repeated Syria's conditions for resolving the crisis — ending all links with Israel and introducing political and constitutional reforms to achieve national reconciliation.

"The Lebanese constitution which was born in 1943 has become unsuitable ... it does not

satisfy the majority of the Lebanese people," it said.

It said the 1943 national covenant, which tends to favour Christians over Muslims, was a source of discrimination which partitioned Lebanon society rather than unified it.

"Any attempt (to resolve the crisis) which is not based on achieving drastic political reforms in Lebanon before the election of a new president will remain useless. It will not alter the bad situation in Lebanon," Al Thawra said.

Lebanon has been without a president since Sept. 23 when Amin Gemayel's term expired.

Ozal urges efforts to maintain Turco-Greek ties

ANKARA (R) — Turkish Prime Minister Turgut Ozal said Wednesday Greece and Turkey should do all they could to maintain their year-old reconciliation.

"It goes without saying that both Turkey and Greece should... refrain from actions or statements that might damage the Davos process," Ozal said in a statement issued by the Foreign Ministry.

Ozal and Greek Prime Minister Andreas Papandreu launched efforts to end long-standing disputes, including the divided island of Cyprus, at a meeting in Davos, Switzerland, in January 1988.

Ozal's statement followed a dispute at the Vienna convention-

al stability talks (CST) last week when Greece objected to Turkey's exclusion of a southern port from a disarmament zone.

Ozal said keeping Mersin port out of the zone was a matter solely concerning Turkey as it had a direct bearing on its security interests.

"With this in mind, our government has taken into consideration primarily Turkey's and NATO's security interests in determining the boundaries of this zone," he said.

Greece said Mersin, 75 miles from Cyprus, should be included in the zone because it was Turkey's direct supply point to north Cyprus where Ankara has around



Turgut Ozal
29,000 troops stationed.
Turkey said the Cyprus issue was not relevant to the talks.

State Department to discuss Arafat visa with ADC

WASHINGTON (AP) — Two Arab American officials have been invited to the State Department to discuss the possibility of granting a visa for Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat to visit the United States, an Arab American group has said.

The president of the American Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC), Abdoen Jabara, and the chairman of its board, James Abourezk, were asked to meet Monday with an aide to Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy, said the group's spokesman, Faris Bouhafa. The aide, Ned Walker, deals in Middle Eastern affairs.

"The stated purpose of the invitation was to discuss an Ara-

far visa," Bouhafa said Tuesday.

State Department officials confirmed such a meeting had been set to discuss the results of Abourezk's meeting with Arafat last week, but declined to discuss the question of a visa for the PLO leader.

Arafat last Friday accepted an invitation from Abourezk to address the ADC's annual convention April 13 in Washington, the ADC said.

The State Department and the White House said Tuesday they had not received an application from Arafat for a visa. If it comes, said White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater, "We won't say in advance what we'll do."



ANTI-OCCUPATION DEFIANCE Israeli soldier on patrol in occupied Jerusalem — A woman sticks out her tongue at an

U.S. lawyers' group criticises Reagan's silence on Israeli abuses

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — A U.S. lawyers group criticised the Reagan administration in a report issued Tuesday for failing to speak out against Israeli abuses in the occupied territories, singling out the U.S. president for his "virtual silence" on the issue.

"Quiet diplomacy, closed door meetings and limited public comment are simply not sufficient," said the New York-based Lawyers Committee for Human Rights in its annual assessment of American policy.

The 342-page report titled "The Reagan Administration's Record on Human Rights in 1988" also urged incoming President George Bush to publicly address the issue of Israeli handling of the Palestinian uprising in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

"The United States, as the major supporter of Israel, must demonstrate that it applies human rights standards evenhandedly, scrutinises the human rights record of allies and

does not hesitate to challenge publicly ... systematic and ongoing abuses," the report's 16-page chapter on Israel said. The chapter was made available here. Among the abuses cited by the group were Israel's expulsion of 49 Palestinians, the demolition of hundreds of Palestinian homes and the detention of some 2,600 Arabs for six months or longer without trial.

All of the measures violate international conventions for the treatment of people under occupation, the report said.

It also criticised the Israeli army for allowing beatings, the use of live ammunition and other measures that have led to the deaths of more than 360 Palestinians during the 13-month uprising.

The group singled out Reagan and Secretary of State George Shultz for failing to speak out during visits last year by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir and Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin.

Secretary of State Shultz and other officials consistently avoided vigorous and detailed public comment in response to the mounting death toll in the occupied territories," it said.

The report added that "President Reagan, in particular, was virtually silent on human rights problems in the territories."

The group noted that American support for Israel was "solidly anchored" by \$3 billion in annual U.S. aid.

"Given this level of support, the Reagan administration should have designated a high-level U.S. official to raise human rights concerns," it said.

Despite the criticism of U.S. officials, the report praised former U.S. Ambassador Thomas Pickering and his staff for "actively monitoring human rights in the territories... and repeatedly conveying their concerns to Israeli officials."

Mine probably caused fatal blast in Gulf

BAHRAIN (R) — A drifting mine in the Gulf was probably responsible for an explosion which split a Bahraini dhow in two, killing one fisherman and injuring five others, officials said Wednesday.

They said the force of Tuesday's blast near a coral reef 35 miles northeast of Bahrain suggested it was caused by a mine which had drifted south after breaking loose from moorings in the northern Gulf.

"Evidence seems to point to a mine explosion," one security official said. "The strong

winds and rough seas we've had means mines are more likely to break loose and drift south."

The crew of a second dhow pulled the body of the stricken vessel's Bahraini captain from the water and rescued his five Asian companions.

One of the survivors, 39-year-old Mohammad Noor Fager of Bombay, told Reuters from his hospital bed he believed the explosion was caused by something underneath the vessel.

"I was brushing my teeth at

the back of the boat. Suddenly I heard a very big noise. The boat split into two pieces and I fell into the water," he said.

Fager, who has a fractured spine, said he was in the water for about 10 minutes but could remember little.

Three of the other survivors have been released from hospital while the fourth, Indian Leyaqat Ahmad, 23, is being treated for shock and back injuries.

The sources said they had not yet ruled out a faulty boiler or engine problems as causes of

the explosion, but Western naval officials said they were almost certain a mine was responsible.

They said that, despite extensive minesweeping by Western navies, at least 200 tethered mines left over from the Iran-Iraq war were thought to be in the northern Gulf beyond the reach of foreign minesweepers.

The British minesweepers are due to start searching a 26-mile shipping channel leading to Bahrain's Mina Sulman port Saturday.

Afghan rebels to form 500-member council

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — A U.N. official said Tuesday that Afghan rebel groups will convene a 500-member Islamic council, or Shura, by Feb. 1 to work towards a new government for their war-torn nation.

Benon Sevan, the secretary-general's alternate representative on Afghanistan, told a news conference that he hoped members of the Soviet-backed Kabul government also would take part. But he said the composition of the conference, a kind of religious parliament, was still under discussion.

Sevan, who has been shuttling between Kabul, Afghanistan and Islamabad and Peshawar, Pakistan, for the past two months, said he had "no reason to believe that Soviet troops will not withdraw by Feb. 15," as required by a U.N.-mediated agreement.

The Soviet Union sent troops into Afghanistan in 1979 in support of a pro-Soviet government, following a coup in April 1978.

Sevan declined to comment on reports that the Soviet Union may provide the Afghanistan army with new, long-range missiles with which to battle rebels

after the Soviet withdrawal. The Soviet Union has said it wants to withdraw the 50,000 remaining troops by the Feb. 15 deadline.

Sevan was asked what the United Nations, which has a 50-man team in the region, would do if a civil war broke out after the Soviet withdrawal. He said the Security Council would have to decide if it wanted to create a special observer or peacekeeping force.

Sevan said that an "intra-Afghan dialogue" is under way between the seven-group Sunni

Muslim alliance in Pakistan and the eight-group Shi'ite alliance in Iran, all representing anti-Kabul Afghan guerrillas.

"There is agreement now on all sides to hold a shura, a consultative council, which will be the first step toward a formal intra-Afghan dialogue," Sevan said.

"All the elements for peace are there," he said. "There are a lot of pipe dreams all over, but they are moving fast enough after 10 years of fighting toward a shura which is accepted by all concerned as an intra-Afghan way of resolving the problem."

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Algeria protests British mistreatment

ALGIERS (R) — British Charge d'Affaires John Ilman was called to the Foreign Ministry Tuesday to hear complaints about the way British officials treat Algerians arriving in Britain, the official news agency APS said. The British diplomat was told of the government's "concern over the repeated offences against the dignity of Algerian citizens going to Britain," the agency said. "The British government was invited to lift restrictions on the circulation of people between the two countries," it added. Last week APS reported that about 20 Britons were turned back in 1988 in retaliation for the mistreatment of Algerians held overnight in jail in Britain before being sent back home. The agency said at the time the expulsion of Britons had been suspended pending assurances from London that the measure would be reciprocated. It said 580 Algerians were turned back at British airports in 1987 but the figure rose to 662 in the first six months of last year.

Knesset urges Bush to release spies

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel's parliament Tuesday urged incoming United States President George Bush to release Jonathan and Anne Pollard — convicted of spying for Israel — on "humanitarian grounds." Pollard, a former U.S. navy analyst who admitted passing secrets to Israel on Arab and Soviet military strength was sentenced to life imprisonment in March 1987. His wife received a five-year sentence for aiding him. "The Knesset (parliament) appeals to President Bush to release Mrs. Anne Pollard from prison in light of her state of health and to grant the Pollard couple clemency on humanitarian grounds," the resolution said. Pollard admitted passing secret information that helped Israel bomb Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) headquarters in Tunis in October 1985. The data included information on Soviet and Arab military strength.

Protests over price rise, shortages in Sudan

KHARTOUM (R) — Hundreds of people took to the streets of the Sudanese capital Tuesday to protest against food shortages and a 150 per cent rise in the price of sugar. Witnesses said the protesters shouted anti-government slogans in Khartoum and its twin city of Omdurman. There were no reports of violence or arrests. The protests coincided with the start of a five-day strike by state-employed engineers and technicians seeking more pay. Prime Minister Sadeq Al Mahdi told a news conference Monday that his government had decided to raise the price of sugar to 1.25 Sudanese pounds (27 cents) from 50 pence (11 cents) per pound. Last month the government rescinded a 500 per cent increase in sugar prices after a nationwide strike and three days of protests in which at least one person was killed.

Kyprianou faces libel suit

NICOSIA (R) — Retired West German diplomat Paul Kurbjuhn is suing former Cypriot President Spyros Kyprianou for libel over an incident that shook relations between Bonn and Nicosia 10 years ago. Lawyer Michael Pissas representing Kurbjuhn said he would call as witnesses ministers of Kyprianou, who was defeated for reelection to the presidency in February last year. The case opened before a Nicosia district court in November and was adjourned again Tuesday to the end of the month. Kurbjuhn, 75, who served at the German Embassy in Nicosia in the 1970s, accused Kyprianou of implicating him in a conspiracy to overthrow the Cypriot government and of being an accessory to a gunbattle over a hijack at Larnaca airport in 1978 in which 15 Egyptians died. "I want a public apology, which has to be signed by him personally and has to be distributed on an international scale," Kurbjuhn told Reuters. He said he was also seeking up to \$100,000 in damages.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION Tel: 77111-19 PROGRAMME ONE 15:30 Koran 15:50 Programme review 16:00 Children programmes 16:15 Arabic film 17:30 Programme on Jordan 18:00 News for the deaf 18:20 Local programme 18:50 "Alph" 19:15 Health programme 19:40 Programme review 20:00 News in Arabic 20:30 Local news 21:30 Programme review 21:40 Programme on Islamic art 22:30 News summary in Arabic 23:10 Film (cont.) PROGRAMME TWO 18:00 La Baby Sitter 18:30 La chance aux chansons 19:00 News in French 19:15 L'aveu en France 19:30 News in Hebrew 19:45 Varieties 20:00 News in Arabic 20:30 Ball Croix Show 21:10 Beauty and the Beast 22:00 News in English	PRAYER TIMES 05:10 Fajr 06:31 (Sunrise) Dhuha 11:46 Dhuhr 14:37 'Asr 17:01 Maghrib 18:22 'Isha CHURCHES Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 623785 St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590 Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440 De la Salle Church Tel. 661757 Terra Santa Church Tel. 622366 Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541 Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 625453 Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331 Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261 St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771521 Armenian International Church Tel. 685258 Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295	Rainbow Congregation Tel. 822605 The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 815817, 821264 WEATHER Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology. In the morning it will be clear and very cold. During the day it will be partly cloudy and another rise in temperature is expected. Winds will be northwesterly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm. Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 8, Aqaba 16. Humidity readings: Amman 63 per cent, Aqaba 30 per cent. USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS NIGHT DUTY AMMAN: Dr. Tayseer Khadr 606857 Dr. Abbas Al Hakim 891256 Dr. Hani Haddadin 777751 Dr. Fakher Babish 629778 Firas pharmacy 661932 Ferdows pharmacy 778336 Al Asema pharmacy 637055 Nasrallah pharmacy 623872 Al Salam pharmacy 636730 Yacoub pharmacy 649495 Shmeisani pharmacy 637660 IRBID: Dr. Fawwaz Al Moamni (—) Al Sharaa pharmacy 985238 ZARQA: Dr. Waleed Halaseh 982799 Khalifeh pharmacy 985417	EMERGENCIES Civil Defence Department 661111 Civil Defence Immediate Rescue 630341 Civil Defence Emergency 639999 Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777 Fire Brigade 62209093 Blood Bank 775121 Highway Police 843402 Traffic Police 65690991 Public Security Department 656000 / 685111 HOSPITALS AMMAN: Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32 Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn. 644281/6 Akileh Maternity, J. Amn. 64241/2 Jibsi Amman Maternity 642362 Malhas, J. 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Airport 08-53200 MARKET PRICES FOR FRIDAY Upper/lower price in fils per kg Apple 450 / 400 Banana 350 / 300 Banana (Mukannar) 300 / 250 Beans 600 / 500 Broad beans 750 / 650 Cabbage 200 / 180 Carrots 200 / 180 Cauliflower 250 / 180 Cucumbers 400 / 300 Dates 600 / 550 Eggplant (large) 120 / 80 Eggplant (small) 180 / 120 Garlic 280 / 200 Grapefruit 160 / 120 IRBID: Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32 Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn. 644281/6 Akileh Maternity, J. Amn. 64241/2 Jibsi Amman Maternity 642362 Malhas, J. Amman 636140 Palestine, Shmeisani 664171/4 Shmeisani Hospital 669131 University Hospital 845845 Al-Munasher Hospital 6672779 The Islamic, Abdali 66612737 Al-Ahli, Abdali 664164/6 ZARQA: Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32 Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn. 644281/6 Akileh Maternity, J. Amn. 64241/2 Jibsi Amman Maternity 642362 Malhas, J. 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Tabbaa, Watanabe discuss joint venture

AMMAN (J.T.) — Minister of Industry and Trade Hamdi Tabbaa and Japan's Ambassador to Jordan Makoto Watanabe Wednesday discussed prospects for joint Jordanian-Japanese production of ready-made clothes for export. The Jordan News Agency, Petra, said the possibility of setting up a joint venture in Jordan's free zone area was discussed.

Petra said the ambassador and the minister reviewed other areas of cooperation which would be implemented through the help of Japanese firms in Jordan, and discussed visits by Japanese investors and businessmen to the Kingdom to assess its economic and industrial potentials.

Tabbaa and Watanabe, the agency said, reviewed the outcome of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan's visit to Japan last year when he discussed Jordanian-Japanese cooperation.

In October 1987, Japan announced a \$300 million soft loan to Jordan to help the Kingdom carry out economic development projects as part of a package of Japanese assistance for countries in the region.

In a recent interview with the Jordan Times, Watanabe said Prince Hassan's visit to Japan helped increase bilateral cooperation. He also referred to a visit to

Jordan in November last year by a delegation representing C. Itoh and Company, one of the six largest firms in Japan, and said it was one of the results of a Jordanian-Japanese economic seminar held in Japan during Prince Hassan's visit.

C. Itoh and the Natural Resources Authority (NRA) signed a two-year agreement under which the company will conduct an oil prospecting programme in the eastern areas of Jordan.

Following his talks with the ambassador, Tabbaa met with Mohammad Asfour, president of the Federation of Jordanian Chambers of Commerce (FJCC), and discussed means of encouraging investments in the Kingdom and stimulating trade.

He reviewed ways by which Jordanian products can be marketed abroad through foreign companies.

Cooperation with Italy

Tabbaa later received Italian Ambassador to Jordan Francesco de Curten and discussed with him Jordanian-Italian economic and trade relations.

Petra said the two sides also looked into prospects for setting up a joint committee to be charged with promoting economic and trade ties.



Arbor Day at Naour

MINISTER of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Abdul Aziz Al Khayyat Wednesday plants a sapling during Arbor Day ceremonies held at a plot of land owned by the Ministry of Awqaf in Naour district, west of Amman. The minister said the site was part of a 120-dunum plot owned by the ministry and it would be planted with 5,000 saplings during the current agricultural season. Other Arbor Day celebrations organised by the Greater Amman Municipality took place at Marka and Naser Districts Wednesday (Petra photo).

Chechen delegation, RSS, HCST discuss cooperation

Soviet institute to test Jordan's shale for oil

AMMAN (J.T.) — A petroleum research institute in the Soviet Chechen Ingush autonomous republic will process shale rock found in Jordan to assess prospects for extracting oil from the rock.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, said agreement that Jordan would send a sample consignment of the rock to the institute came during a meeting held Wednesday between Royal Scientific Society (RSS) President Jawad Al Anani and a visiting delegation from the institute. An RSS team will take part in oil shale research at the institute, the agency added.

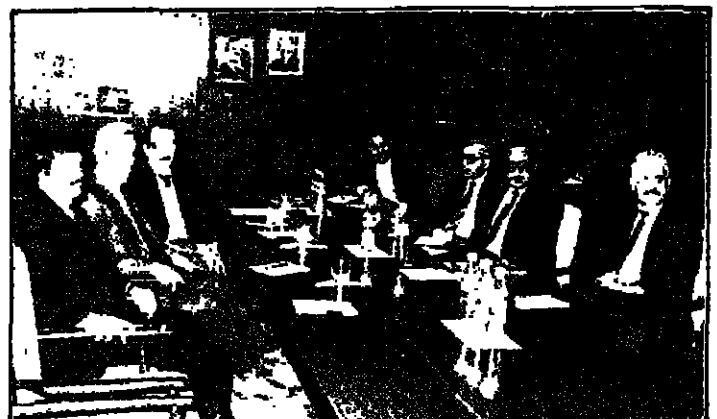
Shale rock is found in abundance in the Lejjoun area in southern Jordan and Natural Resources Authority (NRA) officials estimate the deposits at about 13 billion tonnes.

The delegation from the Petroleum Research Institute is on a week-long visit to Jordan to discuss cooperation with the Higher

Council for Science and Technology (HCST) and the RSS.

In another meeting held Wednesday, the delegation head, Dr. Salam Bek Haji, told HCST Secretary-General Adnan Badran that the institute was ready to provide expertise and training to personnel from Jordanian institutions, including the HCST. The institute conducts wide research on work related to oil refineries and installations as well as trains personnel, Haji said.

The institute had concluded agreements with Japan and the United States to conduct joint research work and has special units to study oil products, with particular attention to the wide use of grease oil and minerals, Haji added.



Royal Scientific Society President Jawad Al Anani (second from right) and RSS officials Wednesday meet with a delegation representing a Soviet petroleum research institute (Petra photo)

Badran welcomed the guests and expressed hope that the meetings would result in wider scopes of cooperation.

The team arrived in Amman Tuesday evening to work out with specialists from the HCST a detailed executive programme for an agreement on cooperation with the RSS's Chemical Industries Department.

The agreement was signed several months ago in the Chechen Ingush Republic to pave the way for bilateral cooperation in oil research fields.

The team will also meet with officials from Jordanian universities, the Natural Resources Authority

and the Jordan Petroleum Refinery Company.

The RSS's Chemical Industries Department conducts scientific research and studies, offers consultations concerning paints, lubricants and other petroleum products and provides advanced services to the industry.

The department also conducts research on raw inorganic materials, particularly those used in industries and products, and on raw materials used in ceramic and glass industries with the aim of determining the appropriate kinds and upgrading final products.

Iraq to continue exports of oil products via Aqaba

Ramadan, Haj Hassan review land transport operations

BAGHDAD (Petra) — Iraqi First Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yassin Ramadan met in Baghdad Wednesday with Minister of Transport and Telecommunications Khaled Al Haj Hassan and reviewed progress of the Iraqi-Jordanian Land Transport Company's (IJLTC) operations.

Also reviewed were Jordanian-Iraqi cooperation in transport and communications in general and the outcome of a meeting of the IJLTC general assembly which concluded in Baghdad Tuesday.

Haj Hassan earlier met with his Iraqi counterpart Mohammad Zubaidi to discuss Iraq's exports of refined oil products through Aqaba. The Iraqi minister said that his country would continue to export oil products through

Aqaba but would stop exporting crude oil through the Red Sea port.

IJLTC figures

Haj Hassan and Zubaidi Tuesday chaired the IJLTC meeting which reviewed the company's plan of operations for the year 1989 and approved the company's estimated budget for the same year.

The company's estimated revenues for the year 1989 are JD 17,418,000 while expenditures are estimated at JD 15,590,000.

The company's secretary general, Mahmoud Al Talhouni, who was also present at the meeting, said the company's gross revenues for the year 1988 amounted to JD 15,860,000 while

expenditure totalled JD 13,650,000.

Talhouni said the company transported one and a half million tonnes of goods from Aqaba to Baghdad, in addition to 50,000 tonnes of Jordanian phosphates from the phosphate mines to Aqaba port during the year 1988.

Since its establishment in 1981, Talhouni said, the company transported 7,660,000 tonnes of goods to Iraq — 25 per cent of the goods shipped to Iraq through Aqaba port.

Later Tuesday Haj Hassan discussed with Zubaidi bilateral cooperation and the issues pertaining to the implementation of the Joint Higher Jordanian-Iraqi



Taha Yassin Ramadan

Committee's decisions in the field of transport and telecommunications.

Joint Jordan-Egypt committee to meet Jan. 27

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Joint Jordanian-Egyptian Higher Committee will meet in Cairo Jan. 27 under the co-chairmanship of Prime Minister Zaid Rifai and his Egyptian counterpart Atef Sidki.

The committee will discuss progress in joint economic projects and assess the integration process between Jordan and Egypt in economic, information, cultural, agricultural and industrial fields.

The committee last met in Amman in January 1988 and decided to raise to \$350 million

the volume of trade between the two countries during 1989, and finalised a \$250 million trade agreement for 1988.

The two sides also agreed on specific measures to promote cooperation in health, manpower, information, trade, economy and industry.

The committee also put the finishing touches to an agreement to launch a livestock production project through the joint holding company.

The company's director said this week that the company would begin with an annual

production of 14,200 tonnes of lean meat and 20,800 heads of sheep.

The project, to be set up near Egypt's port city of Alexandria, will cost about \$12 million and production is expected to start towards the end of 1989.

Tabbaa to visit Cairo

It was announced here Wednesday that Minister of Industry and Trade Hamdi Tabbaa will visit Egypt Monday for talks with his Egyptian counterpart on ways to bolster

trade and steps to promote economic integration.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, said Tabbaa, who will spend a week in Egypt, will head the Jordanian side to the meeting of the Jordanian-Egyptian holding company to review past year's accomplishments and future projects.

Petra said that during Tabbaa's visit the two countries will announce the start of work on a project for the production of animal feed in Egypt with a capital of 50 million Egyptian pounds.

NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

ROYAL DECREE: A Royal Decree was issued Wednesday endorsing an amendment to the Income Tax Law. The decree defined the percentage of tax levied on doubtful loans at banks, financial companies, and specialised credit institutions. (Petra)

OMANI MINUTES ENDORSED: The Cabinet Wednesday endorsed the minutes of the Joint Jordanian-Omani Ministerial Committee meetings held in Muscat early January. The minutes include adoption of a number of measures to develop and reinforce bilateral economic and trade relations. The Cabinet also endorsed the appointment of Khalifeh Al Smadi as mayor of Ajloun district. (Petra)

IFAD MEETING: Planning Minister Taher Kanaan and the secretary general of the agriculture ministry will represent Jordan to the 12th session of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) council of governors to be held in Rome Tuesday. (Petra)

BRITISH CONTRIBUTION: The British embassy has made a contribution of JD 2,145 to the Palestine Hospital in Amman to help it purchase a baby incubator from the United Kingdom. Mr. Malcolm Ives, development secretary at the embassy, handed over the donation to the hospital management this week. (J.T.)

SQUASH CHAMPIONSHIP: A squash open championship opened at the Sports City Tuesday. The championship is the first activity of a new squash committee for 1989 formed by Sports City Director Marwan Khair. The committee, which is chaired by Abdul Ra'ouf Saad, groups six members, all known squash players. (J.T.)

BAHOU VISITS GULF: Alex Bahou, director of the Al Sayyad Press Establishment's commercial department, leaves Amman Thursday on a Gulf tour. Bahou is to spend a month on his tour that will include Saudi Arabia.

EDUCATIONALIST VISITS LONDON: Jordanian educationalist Bassem Barakat leaves Amman for London Wednesday on a several-day visit related to his Rawdat Al Maarif College and schools educational project. (J.T.)

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- An exhibition of works by Contemporary Arab Artists at Al Wasiti Art Gallery.
- The Iraqi Cultural Week which includes an exhibition by the Iraqi artist Salam Al Madambeh and an exhibition of children's paintings and children's literary and cultural books, at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- An exhibition of photos and videos on "La Defense", a new district in Paris which became a symbol of architectural creativity, at the French Cultural Centre.
- An exhibition of caricatures by Jordanian artist Sa'id Haddadin at the Soviet Cultural Centre.
- An exhibition of decorations and Arabic orthography on mirrors by Ghada Al Khatib at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- An art exhibition by Egyptian artist Yassin Ibrahim Mohammad at the Housing Bank Gallery.

THEATRE

- Theatrical portraits of a selection of literary writings entitled "Shades of Eve" at the Royal Cultural Centre — 8:00 p.m.

FILM

- A feature film entitled "A Soldier's Story" at the American Centre — 7:00 p.m.

BUSH INAUGURATION

- Live television coverage of the inauguration of President George Bush, taking place at noon in Washington, D.C. (7:00 p.m. Jordan local time), preceded by a show of Reagan's Jan. 12 farewell address and a profile of the new president — 5:30 p.m.

Labour inspection drive to continue

AMMAN (J.T.) — Labour Minister Marwan Dudin Wednesday visited the Amman labour office, which processes incoming non-Jordanian workers to be employed in the Kingdom, and was briefed on the procedures.

The minister emphasised the need to ensure that non-Jordanians are employed only on jobs for which no Jordanian is available, and that foreign workers must be employed in occupations for which they had been issued work permits.

The minister voiced satisfaction with the outcome of a recent inspection campaign conducted by employment offices and said

teams from the Ministry of Labour would maintain the campaign.

At least 30,000 non-Jordanians working in the Kingdom renewed their work permits over the past weeks as a result of the campaign.

Dudin said labour inspection teams would continue to visit companies and other organisations employing non-Jordanians to ensure that the ministry's laws and regulations are not violated.

A recent report published here revealed that a total of 226,754 non-Jordanians were living in the country at the end of December 1988.



University of Jordan President Abdul Salam Al Majali (right) and Federation of Jordanian Chambers of Commerce Wednesday sign a cooperation agreement

University, FJCC sign cooperation agreement

AMMAN (Petra) — The University of Jordan and the Federation of Jordanian Chambers of Commerce (FJCC) Wednesday signed an agreement on cooperation in scientific research, exchange of information and expertise and training.

The two sides agreed to exchange of publications and cooperate in organising conferences, seminars and lectures, according to the agreement.

which also stipulates that the university will provide training facilities for personnel working for the federation.

The federation pledged to inform the University of Jordan of activities of the private sector in the Kingdom and those of other countries' federations. The agreement was signed by University of Jordan President Abdul Salam Al Majali and FJCC President Mohammad Asfour.

MEMORIAL SERVICE

A memorial service for the soul of our beloved

GABRIELE ASELMAN HASHWA will be held at the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church at Um Ussumag — Amman, on Friday, January 20, 1989, at 4 p.m.

The Aselmann and Hashwa families invite all friends and relatives to attend the service.

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STARTED ON DECEMBER 7th UP TO JANUARY 31, 1989

Jordan Times

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A lesson to emulate

THE DOCUMENT on disarmament and human rights, formally endorsed Tuesday in Vienna by the foreign ministers of 35 member countries of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE), is rightly hailed as among the most significant achievements in international affairs since the end of World War II. The package deal struck between NATO and Warsaw Pact countries in their Vienna meeting over the past few days has set a new tone in East-West relations.

This milestone development must be the envy of other regions of the world which must be by now searching for ways and means to emulate the reign of reason and common sense that prevailed on the European theatre. The goodwill and understanding generated by such a giant leap forward in international relations among the developed nations of the world would surely bring pressure to bear on other countries to learn from this precedent and draw the necessary conclusions. Otherwise other states would be left far behind the process of positive developments in international relations that they could find themselves in some sort of intellectual and political cocoon from which they will not be able to liberate themselves. There is a clear message from all of this, especially to the Non-Aligned Movement which is currently engaged in some soul-searching about where it is heading.

It should be alarming from the non-aligned countries point of view that at a time when they are rejected in their Cyprus meeting last week the reference to human rights issues as being relevant to the movement, NATO and Warsaw Pact countries did exactly the reverse by raising these human rights endeavours loud and clear as relevant to contemporary times. The juxtaposition of disarmament and human rights by even adversary blocs of countries serves notice on the rest of the international community that gone are the days when such matters can be swept under the rug. If the developing countries do not heed the advances registered at the East-West level, the gap between them and the developed world would get even more exasperated. More ominously, the intellectual gap between the developing and developed world could become even more unbridgeable than it already is.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

KING Hussein's directives to the Ministry of Youth on the need to promote the role and the activities of the Jordanian youth was the theme of an editorial in Wednesday's edition of Al Ra'i Arabic daily. The King was the first and staunchest supporter of youth activities in which he took active part, but the responsibility in developing the youth's activities and sports lies not only with the King and the government but rather with the youth themselves and all sectors of the community, said the paper. Of course, as the King said, the contribution of the youth towards the country's development is essential and therefore all possible means should be available to them to achieve that goal, the paper added. It is at the home where the youth grow and develop in the early years of life; and it is therefore the place where the process of building up useful men for the future should begin, the paper said. The coming stage of construction, the paper concluded, requires determination and serious dedication on the part of the youth so that the country can achieve further progress.

A columnist in Al Ra'i daily welcomes the Iraqi government's moves to open the way for political parties to exercise their activities, describing them as a true facet of democracy. Political parties means accepting the views of all sectors and all groups, and a participation in the process of government — giving the political system more life and more guarantees for success. Mahmoud Rimawi asserts. Rimawi says that such moves, coming in the midst of a period of reconstruction and development following eight years of war indicate that the leadership in Baghdad seeks to gain the contribution of all sectors of the public regardless of their faith or background, and to provide full protection of the law for all citizens. The fact that changes are being made in the Iraqi constitution to absorb the new moves, reflects the leadership's determination of perpetuating this form of democracy not only to meet the requirements of the present stage, but also to maintain and perpetuate the change. Rimawi adds. Democracy he concludes will flourish in a country like Iraq which has had a long experience in the struggle against colonial rule and one whose land had served as a cradle of civilisations.

Al Dustour daily tackles prospects for a change in Washington's stand with regard to the Palestine question under George Bush's administration. The paper said that King Hussein's optimism about this prospect, as expressed in the Time magazine, is drawn from the fact that the present administration had finally decided to open a dialogue with the PLO, thus removing a major block in the path of the coming government. The King's optimism is also due to the fact that Bush has a vast experience in foreign affairs and is well informed about the Middle East situation, the paper said. In fact, the Arab World at large is optimistic about the coming administration's future policies with regard to the Middle East problem which continues to witness developments more than any other world issue. The Arabs, it said, sincerely hope that the Bush administration will take practical steps towards convening the proposed international conference which offers the best forum where a settlement can be reached.

Sawt Al Shaab daily says that the Ministry of Youth came into being for the sole reason of promoting the sports and other activities for the youth in the course of helping the young generation to serve their country. Commenting on King Hussein's visit to the ministry, the paper said his directives to the minister of youth Tuesday brings to mind the very important contributions to the youth movement initiated in the Kingdom by the late King Abdullah who created the scouts movement and engineered sports groups among other activities. It said that promoting the capabilities and skills of the youth should remain an integral part of the whole process of development.

Something is cooking

By P.V. Vivekanand

IT COMES as no surprise that the Israeli embassy in London has reported receiving a parcel bomb at a time when the British government is taking a lead in efforts for peace in the Middle East through initiating high-level contacts with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO). The clinch came when Scotland Yard was called in to disarm the "small device", with all the media publicity the incident could get, while the Israeli government kept a very pointed silence, as if to leave it to the world, particularly the Britons, to decide who could have been the culprit. A beautiful diplomatic masterstroke, but it appears to have fallen short of its mark since even the leaders of the Conservative Friends of Israel were unimpressed. If anything, the trend was summed up by Robert Rhodes James, a Conservative member of parliament and leader of the Friends of Israel, who found it fit only to comment that he and many other people were concerned by the Israeli government's "completely negative" response to peace overtures by the PLO.

For once, realities are coming into focus in the international scene and many leaders have gathered enough courage to tear down the Israeli-designed veil and openly speak out against Israel's intransigence and refusal to accept the inevitability of addressing the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people. The bold stand taken by the British government is evident in Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe's calls on the Israeli government to

respond positively to the new Palestinian peace strategy and Foreign Office Minister William Waldegrave's meeting with PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat last week and his pointed reference to the terrorist past of today's Israeli leaders in comparison with their state contentions over the PLO and "terrorism".

In any event, there is little doubt that Britain has indeed assumed a prominent role in efforts for peace in the Middle East. For once, British leaders are talking realistically in the context of the Palestinian problem and seem determined to exert the best of their efforts to push for a settlement of the conflict, which their forefathers helped create.

Imagination has very little to do with seeing Israel's own hands at work behind the parcel bomb that very conveniently reached the Israeli embassy Monday, the same day Waldegrave returned to London after his landmark meeting with Arafat in Tunis. For one thing, the bomb assumed as much prominence in the British media as did Waldegrave's trip and his comments. No doubt, Israel bargained for more but was disappointed.

One cannot see the parcel-bomb episode in isolation from the Dec. 21 bombing of a Pan Am airliner and Israeli assertions that one or another Palestinian group was responsible for it. Israeli strategists appear to have reversed tactics, having realised that Arafat's pronouncements have gained wide international acclaim and the world community has accepted them as an unquestionable

landmark in the Palestinian quest for a just and comprehensive settlement to the problem. Obviously, the option available to the Israelis is to undermine Arafat's credibility and influence as the unquestioned representative of the Palestinian people and his ability to restrain splinter Palestinian groups from resorting to armed violence. The stalling tactics that Israel is resorting to could only be aimed at manoeuvring moderate Palestinians — groups as well as individuals — into frustration over no gains from the truce and hardliners into believing that Arafat is gaining ground on the diplomatic front with his peace campaign based on a two-state solution.

So, what appears to be a crosswire in Israeli signals along the line is not surprising either. The Israeli official in charge of "operations" in Lebanon says that the PLO has not conducted any "infiltration" attempts or attacks on Israeli targets since that fateful day eight weeks ago in Geneva when Arafat renounced "terrorism" and accepted Israel's existence. An acknowledgement of a halt in resistance attack by mainstream PLO factions across the Lebanese border would appear to be the last thing one could expect from Israel at this point in time. Something is cooking indeed, and the smell of it is not very nice either.

The writer is the political editor of the Jordan Times.

Palestinian Popular Army on the march in West Bank

By Paul Taylor

Reuters

NABLUS, West Bank — Armed with knives, swords and hatchets, their faces masked by chequered headscarves, the future soldiers of Palestine are on the march.

Activists spearheading a year-old uprising against Israeli occupation have taken to staging para-military parades in defiance of the army in Nablus's old city and in some remote West Bank villages.

Nationalist leaders say the self-styled Palestine Popular Army is so far more for show than for fighting.

"We hope some day it may be the nucleus of a liberation army but this is a dream," says Nablus businessman Said Kanan, a prominent PLO supporter. "For now it's mainly for propaganda. It raises the morale of the people."

Israeli defence officials claim the force's main purpose is to terrorise fellow Palestinians into

obeying the dictates of the United Leadership of the Uprising, backed by the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

It began last August when hundreds of youths in keffiyeh head-dresses, their clothes covered in black plastic garbage bags, staged a ramshackle march with outlawed Palestinian flags through the Nablus casbah (market).

"It was a really emotional experience to see young people carrying our national colours. People wept in the street," said Umm Jawad, 60, a mother of seven.

Gradually the force assumed real power in the alley-ways of the casbah, where Israeli soldiers are vulnerable to ambushes from Palestinian militants on rooftops, in doorways and around every corner.

The "army" grew out of the so-called shock committees or striking forces which enforce strikes, clash with troops, attack Arabs accused of collaborating with Israeli secret police and im-

plement orders of clandestine local popular committees.

"The army is made up of elite guys from the strike forces, whose main job is internal discipline. The army also has a duty of resistance," said Ibrahim, one of its organisers in Nablus.

Residents say it levies its own "revolutionary" tax of \$25 a month from merchants in exchange for protection from Israeli tax collectors, who are often accompanied by troops.

Twice recently when the Israelis staged tax raids, groups of young militants rushed into the streets and began stoning the military escort, forcing the officials to retreat.

The Nablus "army" has banned the sale of alcohol and drugs in the casbah and helps run a popular justice system that deals with collaborators, thieves, moral delinquents and civil disputes.

Several accused collaborators have been stabbed or beaten to death in Nablus.

The popular courts have filled

a gap left when hundreds of Palestinian policemen resigned from the Israeli police force on orders from the uprising leadership last year, leaving no one to deal with crime and family disputes.

The "army" has also cracked down on prostitution and gambling, residents say.

Palestinians involved in the system say respected older nationalist figures serve on panels of three judges.

Young "soldiers" conduct interrogations, in some cases beat suspects and warn offenders to mend their ways, Ibrahim said.

Sanctions range from private warnings, to public warnings in leaflets and graffiti, to "a whole range of physical punishments against individuals or their property, such as burning the cars or stores of serious offenders," he said.

Nowadays the Nablus "army" sports military-style uniforms, boots and insignia, with units of 15 to 20 *shebab* (youths) mar-

ching behind a commander.

In the village of Yatta, near Hebron, a Reuters reporter witnessed one such unit using walkie-talkies to coordinate a clash with troops in October.

Israeli troops this month found bundles of black uniforms, swords and flags in a raid on an old bath-house in the casbah, local residents reported.

One day last week, a group of three masked Palestinians in red and green track-suit uniforms — one carrying a megaphone, one an iron bar and one a Palestinian flag — stopped on corners to read the latest proclamations of the local popular committee.

"Cars must not be parked in the casbah. All stalls must be off the streets by 12 noon to respect the commercial strike," the megaphone-man said.

Most shoppers walked on in seeming indifference, apparently no longer surprised by the sight.

Some of the early parades appeared to be staged partly for the benefit of foreign photo-

graphers and television crews.

The Israeli army was so angry at the filming by French television of a march on the day PLO leaders declared a Palestinian state last November that it blew up the home of an Arab accused of organising the event. He has not been tried or convicted of any offence.

The Popular Army does not carry firearms and has not sought mass confrontations with Israeli troops.

Palestine Liberation Organisation leaders say they have placed the "army" under the command of Force-17, a PLO force.

But while some Palestinians say the West Bank force receives orders from outside, many say it is a much more local, patchy organisation with no central command.

"We're talking about something very fragmentary. We shouldn't exaggerate their role," said Bir Zeit university political scientist Ziad Abu Amer.

Transition brings signs of change in Japan

By David Thurber

The Associated Press

TOKYO — With the ascension of a new emperor, many Japanese sense their country has tangibly entered a new era — including a chance for more openness in the imperial system itself.

While mourning the Jan. 7 death of 87-year-old Emperor Hirohito, many people heaved a quiet sigh of relief at the closing of his turbulent era and the smooth transition to his son, Akihito, whose reign has been named *heisei*, or "achieving peace."

Hirohito's 62-year reign spanned the depression of the 1930s, the disastrous rise of Japanese militarism and the nation's almost-miraculous reconstruction after World War II.

While some stores removed their decorations and turned off advertising signs for two days after his death, for most people — prepared by his extended illness — it was business as usual and a historic turning point rather than a traumatic loss.

Until Hirohito renounced his divinity after the war, emperors were regarded as living gods. Polls in recent years showed that a small minority of Japanese still considered him one.

In contrast, Akihito is seen as a very ordinary person — a development that some welcome and others regret.

"Hirohito represented the darker side of Japanese history," said Gregory Clark, professor of Japanese studies at Tokyo's Sophia University. "With the appearance of a new emperor, there's a fresh start going on. You can see it particularly in the stock market, and I think it will spread to other areas."

In its first three days after Hirohito's death, the Tokyo stock exchange's main index leaped 933.91 points, or 3.1 per cent.

More 'human'

Despite fears expressed by some that rightists would use Hirohito's death to boost the power of the imperial system, Akihito quickly signalled he would be a more "human" emperor and perhaps allow a more public view of Japan's imperial family.

In his first public statement, Akihito wore a plain Western morning suit and spoke in straightforward language instead of the classic Chinese-style *chokugo* used by his father on the same occasion in 1926. The speech and some other transition rites, held privately in the past,



Akihito

were broadcast on television. Akihito, 55, pledged he would try to "constantly be at one with the people" and join with them "to preserve the constitution of Japan."

Some observers interpreted that as a message to the ruling Liberal Democratic Party and others who have called for change in the country's basic law, telling them not to tamper with Japan's postwar constitution, which renounces war and gives the emperor no real political power.

"Normally a Japanese monarch would not take such a political position," Clark said.

Although the emperor has little direct political power, he will have a deep ability, as Japan's first fully post-divine emperor, to forge the future of the imperial institution and its place in society.

Cabinet decisions about the transition raised more questions than they answered about relations between the government and the imperial system, which officials used in the past to foster a sense of Japanese racial and cultural uniqueness and rally support for invading much of Asia during World War II.

Opposition parties criticised the government's decision to sponsor portions of Hirohito's Feb. 24 funeral and two other transition rites linked to the Shinto religion, which they said might violate the constitution's separation of religion and state.

The Shinto origin of the rites emphasises the close ties between the nature-based former state religion and the emperor, who according to myth is a direct descendant of the sun goddess.

Polls show most Japanese continue to support the current imperial system, which defines the emperor as the "symbol of the state and the unity of the people," but not as head of state.

Rightists who wish to restore the emperor's divinity and increase his role as spiritual leader now face a new emperor who

"will never become a living god because he is too human," said Kenichiro Sembon, senior editor of Asahi Journal, a leading liberal newsweekly.

Ordinary person

"Why should such an ordinary person become an emperor? Now is a good time for us to start thinking about that, and about all aspects of the imperial system, including whether we need the system at all," Sembon said.

Clark added: "I wonder whether the ultra-nationalists will be able to maintain their interest in a pacifist emperor. In the past, they could say he represented their interests, but now that seems less likely."

Both leftist and rightist groups identify the imperial system with Japanese militarism and nationalism.

"What I fear is that an emperor without Hirohito's popularity might cause the imperial system to become more remote from the people, and rightists might use force to try to bring the system back into prominence," said a senior ruling party politician, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Several families who protested government-mandated school memorials to Hirohito by keeping their children at home reported receiving death threats.

Akihito already has sent a breath of fresh air into the conservative and secretive imperial household agency, which oversees the imperial family's affairs.

Unlike Hirohito, who was tutored by war heroes selected by chamberlains, Akihito studied with ordinary students, and was tutored by an American pacifist, Elizabeth Gray Vining, who reportedly instilled in him a sense of the equality of all people.

Akihito also is Japan's first monarch to select his own wife, Empress Michiko, a commoner. The couple raised their three children themselves, ending the imperial practice of separating children from their parents at a young age.

Although Japan's news media raised some questions about Hirohito's war responsibility after his death, editors said full freedom of the press regarding the imperial family will depend on lifting the veil of secrecy has surrounded it.

"Reforming the imperial household agency is the most serious problem facing the new emperor," said Takeshi Maezawa, ombudsman of the conservative Yomiuri Shimbun, Japan's largest newspaper.

No early plans for moves on Mideast peace

Bush likely to make subtle foreign policy shifts

By Michael Gelb

Reuters

WASHINGTON — George Bush is likely to take a businesslike approach to foreign issues and steer clear of grand designs when he takes over from Ronald Reagan as U.S. President on Friday.

His likely foreign policy attitude is suggested by his choice of advisers, his restrained reaction to peace overtures by Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev and PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, and his own words.

"Bush's style will be less flamboyant than Reagan's," predicts former White House national security aide Helmut Sonnenfeldt. "There will be no talk of 'evil empires', nor will there be as much embracing of Gorbachev. Foreign policy will be less of a roller coaster."

Reagan entered office by accusing Soviet leaders of lying and cheating in pursuit of national goals, but seemed to regard Gorbachev as a fellow visionary on the road to a nuclear-free world.

Bush has repeatedly cautioned against placing too much faith in Moscow.

"Perhaps what is happening will change our world forever. Perhaps not. A prudent scepticism is in order," Bush said of Gorbachev's reform efforts, when he accepted the Republican Party's presidential nomination last August.

And in discussing his own style in a foreign policy address the week before the November 8 election, Bush said:

"The oval office requires an unflashy good judgment... I'm no mystic and my leadership will not be the most charismatic. But I'm not sure we need a lot of razzle dazzle. There's probably enough drama in the world already."

When Gorbachev captured headlines by announcing a unilateral cut of 500,000 in Soviet troop levels, Bush reacted mildly. He stressed that Moscow would retain an advantage in conventional military forces even after the reduction.

He said he felt no new pressure for an early summit meeting with his Soviet counterpart and restated his position that such a meeting be preceded by talks with the NATO allies and consultations between Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze and Secretary of State-designate



George Bush

James Baker.

The choice of Baker suggests a non-flashy approach to foreign policy issues. Baker, a former treasury secretary, has a long-standing preference for back-room negotiating rather than working in the spotlight.

The selection of Brent Scowcroft as Bush's national security adviser may mean less enthusiasm for a pact to cut long-range nuclear missiles.

On a number of occasions in recent years Scowcroft, who was also President Gerald Ford's national security adviser, has criticised the Reagan administration for an emotional commitment to arms reduction without regard to its impact on the relative nuclear arsenals of the superpowers.

"The administration seems committed to measures in the fast-moving strategic arms negotiations (START or strategic arms reduction talks) that could decrease stability and damage our allies' confidence in our deterrent," he wrote in December 1987 in a joint article with former Carter administration defence aide James Woolsey.

In another joint paper published just prior to Scowcroft's appointment as national security adviser, the two men said the new administration would have to set making arms reduction proposals to Moscow.

Bush has promised a full review of U.S. strategic policy and one senior foreign policy adviser told Reuters that "he wants his team to make an assessment of the basic choices we have to make on arms systems before moving ahead on START."

Scowcroft was also critical of Reagan's performance at the 1986 Reykjavik summit at which the president and Gorbachev nearly agreed to wipe out their

countries' long-range weapons. "If we actually do have a strategic concept that brings order to all the disparate actions and proposals of the administration, of which Reykjavik is a prime example, it would be reassuring to know what it is," he said in 1987.

Bush advisers say the new president will work far more closely with the NATO allies, who often bristled at what they regarded as inadequate consultation about policies that affected their security.

Many foreign experts say Bush may push for faster action against chemical warfare, a favourite campaign theme, to offset any public concern about a slowdown in nuclear arms talks.

The president-elect has also stressed the importance of the Pacific countries and his first foreign trip, a visit to Japan for the funeral of Emperor Hirohito in late February, is almost certain to include talks with America's Asian allies.

In a bid for a less confrontational relationship with Congress, Baker has passed the word that the new administration does not plan any immediate request for further U.S. military aid to the contra rebels in Nicaragua.

There are no apparent plans for any early moves toward advancing the Middle East peace process.

Asked recently if he would consider a peace mission to that region, Bush told reporters he would "get back on that plane right now and go" if he thought it would help.

But he quickly added that considerable policy review would be needed before such a mission could be considered.

Lawrence Eagleburger, Bush's choice as undersecretary of state, wrote in a recent article that "the (Middle East) situation is not now, and will not for some time, be ripe for new major peace initiatives on the part of the United States."

Another senior foreign policy adviser, who asked not to be identified, said Reagan's decision to talk to the Palestine Liberation Organisation did not mean a breakthrough was near.

"By itself it doesn't mean you are close to negotiations, you're not," he said, citing the refusal of the Israeli government to talk to the PLO, and the continued uprising in the occupied West Bank and Gaza.

EN BREF

Union électrique

La Jordanie, l'Egypte, la Syrie, l'Irak et la Turquie ont décidé mardi à Ankara de relier leurs réseaux électriques. Selon l'agence Petra, les cinq pays envisagent également de connecter leurs réseaux avec ceux d'Europe, via la Turquie. La Turquie est d'ores et déjà reliée à l'Irak, qui lui fournit une partie de son électricité, à la Bulgarie et à l'Union soviétique. Istanbul négocie également avec l'Italie une liaison via la Yougoslavie. Selon le ministre égyptien de l'énergie, l'interconnexion proche-orientale devrait par la suite se voir s'ajouter l'Arabie saoudite, le Koweït et les Emirats, à l'instar du réseau européen mis en place dans les années 50.

Israël: Pères désavoués

Le secrétaire général du parti travailliste, Ouzi Bar Am, a démissionné dimanche de son poste en raison de divergences avec la politique de Shimon Pérès. "Le parti travailliste aurait dû réagir de manière positive et claire aux signes d'ouverture de l'OLP", l'entrée des travaillistes au cabinet de M. Shamir est un crachant au visage de nos lecteurs", a-t-il déclaré. En marge de cette querelle, des mauvais indices pour l'économie israélienne: 16,4% d'inflation en 1988 (16,1 l'an dernier) et une baisse de la fréquentation touristique de 15% dans la même période.

Le saviez-vous?

Secours dans la vallée

Les sismologues israéliens estiment qu'un tremblement de terre d'une magnitude de 5 à 6 degrés sur l'échelle de Richter (qui va jusqu'à neuf) pourrait avoir lieu dans les prochains mois dans la vallée du Jourdain, a rapporté dimanche le quotidien Haaretz. Un rapport en ce sens a été transmis au ministère israélien de l'énergie et la question a été abordée dimanche au cours de la réunion hebdomadaire du gouvernement. Le ministre de l'énergie, a tenu à rassurer la population. "Il n'y a aucun danger immédiat", a-t-il affirmé. Le Jourdain coule au fond de la faille syro-africaine, une profonde dépression du globe terrestre (jusqu'à 400 mètres au dessous du niveau de la mer dans la région de la Mer Morte), une région propice aux secousses telluriques. Il y a quelques semaines, deux secousses telluriques de faible magnitude (4,5) ont été enregistrées dans la vallée du Jourdain, au Sud du lac de Tibériade.

Vous écrivez?

Le Jourdain recherche des collaborateurs en free-lance, avec idées originales d'enquêtes et reportages. Anglais accepté. Contacter François Ducroux, Jordan Times, 607171.

12 à 15.000 employées sri lankaises en Jordanie

Les bonnes à tout faire venues de Ceylan

Le boom pétrolier a drainé au Proche-Orient des milliers de domestiques sri lankaises, attirées par le niveau des salaires. Une seule chose compte pour elles: envoyer chaque mois une liasse de dollars à leurs enfants. Alors, on s'accroche à son travail, quoi qu'il en coûte. Leurs employeurs en profitent souvent.

Il y a neuf ans à Colombo, Manel a laissé tomber son emploi de bureau à 1000 roupies (40 dollars) par mois, qui ne suffisait pas à nourrir sa famille. Son mari était parti. Elle a confié ses trois enfants à sa sœur et est partie "faire fortune" pour eux au Proche-Orient. Manel a aujourd'hui 35 ans et en paraît dix de plus. Ses enfants, elle les a revus quatre fois depuis son départ. Dans un appartement sans chauffage qu'elle partage avec deux autres, on grogote, serrés autour d'un dérisoire poêle à mazout. Mais Manel a gardé dans ses yeux la chaleur silencieuse de l'océan indien, un sourire désarmant. Et désarmé.

"Pendant sept ans, j'ai été employée de maison dans une famille jordanienne, qui me logeait dans une pièce minuscule: lever 06h00 et travail jusqu'à 21h00, parfois même minuit quand il y avait un dîner de famille. Soit quinze à vingt heures par jour. Il fallait s'occuper des enfants, faire le ménage, le repassage, la cuisine et la vaisselle. J'avais un jour de congé, le vendredi. Après avoir levé les enfants, préparé le petit déjeuner, je partais à la messe à 10h00 et j'avais mon après-midi, jusqu'à 18h00. Et je travaillais le soir". Le tout pour 50 dollars par mois, un bon salaire



Amal-Hezbollah: un duel sans merci pour le contrôle du Sud

150 morts en trois semaines

Liban: "bain de sang"

Une voiture piégée a explosé vendredi dernier dans la banlieue Sud de Beyrouth, tuant sept personnes et en blessant une quinzaine. L'explosion a eu lieu alors que des sympathisants chiites du Hezbollah pro-iranien manifestaient dans les rues pour protester contre l'offensive engagée par la milice chiite rivale, Amal, contre les derniers bastions du Hezbollah au Liban Sud.

Le village de Jubah, place forte du Hezbollah, au Sud de Saïda, est toujours encerclée par environ 1.500 miliciens d'Amal. Les combats ont fait au moins 140 morts depuis le 1er janvier.

L'amorce d'un dialogue entre les hauts dignitaires chiites du Liban pour arrêter ce "bain de sang" s'est heurté à l'intransigeance des deux protagonistes. Le Hezbollah lie un cessez-le-feu définitif à sa liberté d'action au Liban Sud, qu'Amal a toujours

Un comité de la Ligue arabe

Un conseil ministériel extraordinaire de la Ligue arabe réuni le 12 janvier à Tunis a décidé de constituer une commission ministérielle de six membres et du Secrétaire général de la Ligue arabe, chargée de contribuer au règlement de la crise libanaise présidée par le Koweït. La commission comprend outre M. Cheddi Klibi, le Soudan, la Tunisie, l'Algérie, la Jordanie et les Emirats Arabes Unis.

Elle est chargée de prendre contact avec "toutes les parties libanaises" pour trouver un règlement à la crise et de proposer ses "bons offices" pour aider les libanais à réaliser "l'entente nationale".

Journée de l'Arbre

Pour une Jordanie verte

La Jordanie lance cette année une politique de conquête sur le désert dans l'est du pays, a-t-on appris dimanche lors de la célébration par le Roi Hussein de la Journée de l'Arbre à Karaneh (70 km à l'Est d'Amman).

Le Roi, après avoir lui-même planté un arbre, a invité tous les Jordaniens à en faire autant, pour un Royaume vert. Sa Majesté a souligné que l'on avait commencé à planter des arbres il y a cinquante ans en Jordanie. Les plantations dans les régions semi-désertiques, comme le secteur de Karaneh, ont été lancées l'an dernier, lors d'une conférence sur le développement des régions désertiques, qui a appelé à faire de la Jordanie un pays vert en l'an 2000.

Un porte-parole du ministère de l'Agriculture a indiqué que la Karaneh avait été choisie cette année pour illustrer la politique de plantations mise en vigueur dans l'Est du pays, région semi-



Disgraciées, elles sont souvent négligées, voire exploitées. Mais devant la police, elles ne pèsent pas lourd face à leurs employeurs

pour une sri lankaise. Manel en envoyait les trois quarts à ses enfants. "La famille était correcte, me payait tous les deux ans un billet pour Colombo (environ 170 dollars aller et retour, un usage non obligatoire). J'étais bien traitée", dit-elle.

Ces cas de Manel est courant et représentatif de la moyenne des Sri Lankaises, qui s'estiment satisfaites avec un tel traitement. D'où elles viennent, on se battra pour être à leur place. "Avant l'augmentation des permis de travail en octobre, il en arrivait en moyenne 300 par semaine", se souvient le consul honoraire jordanien du Sri Lanka, Tawfik Abu Khagil. Elles sont actuellement entre 12.000 et 15.000, le gros des troupes des employées de maison (les Philippines ne sont que 4.000, dont beaucoup d'infirmières). "Ces derniers temps, on en voyait même venir pour des salaires de 30 dinars, crise oblige", ajoute M. Abu Khagil. Là-bas, on leur parlait de 100 dinars. Mais une fois arrivées... Abusées par une compatriote

touchant une commission après de la famille, par une agence peu scrupuleuse ou par la famille elle-même, elle n'est plus le choix.

Sans défense Les Sri Lankaises sont sans défense. Souvent, elles parlent un anglais très rudimentaire et quelques mots d'arabe. Ce dont, manifestement, certains employeurs profitent: salaires dérisoires, horaires élastiques, passeports confisqués, interdictions de sortir sans monnaie courante. Mais il y a pire. Appelons-la Monica. Un jour de repassage, Monica a eu le malheur de laisser un faux pli sur son pantalon. Elle ne le fera plus: sa patronne, excédée par son manque d'expérience, lui a "repasé" le bras avec le fer brûlant. "Elle est venue se plaindre au consulat et nous l'avons envoyée montrer ses brûlures à la police. Mais la thèse de l'accident, défendue par la famille, a emporté la conviction de l'officier. Il a renvoyé la bonne chez ses em-

Une semaine de contacts au Proche-Orient

L'Europe entre en lice

Tournée de Lord Plumb et d'une délégation du Conseil de l'Europe, visite du ministre espagnol des Affaires étrangères à Tel Aviv, retrouvailles entre l'OLP et la Grande Bretagne visite du Secrétaire général de la Ligue arabe à Madrid: l'Europe est entrée cette semaine de plain-pied dans le processus de paix au Proche-Orient. Reste qu'Israël continue à se dérober devant des négociations avec l'OLP.



Lord Plumb à Amman: "Shamir n'a pas de plan"

Lord Plumb, président du Parlement européen, s'est entretenu à Amman avec le Roi Hussein et le premier ministre Zeid Rifai les 12 et 13 janvier, après une rencontre à Jérusalem avec les responsables israéliens. Selon Lord Plumb, Israël "lance des ballons d'essai pour tester les réactions des autres parties". "Le premier ministre israélien n'a pas de plan de paix à proposer; il m'a dit clairement qu'il est juste en train de rassembler des idées, sans aucun engagement", a déclaré Lord Plumb. Il a précisé que "l'Espagne a établi ses relations diplomatiques avec Israël le 17 janvier 1986, après son entrée dans la CEE."

Le Secrétaire général de la Ligue arabe, Cheddi Klibi, avait de son côté rencontré M. Ordóñez, le roi Juan Carlos et le premier ministre Felipe Gonzalez le 13 janvier à Madrid. Soulignant que "l'Espagne est liée au monde arabe par des liens historiques et très étroits", il a estimé que le dialogue euro-arabe était indispensable pour garantir la paix au Moyen-Orient et en Méditerranée. "Le fait que les intérêts arabes et européens soient unis pour garantir la sécurité dans le bassin méditerranéen nous impose d'agir pour éliminer les causes de tension", a-t-il dit.

Une délégation du Conseil de l'Europe, conduite par l'Espagnol Miguel Angel Martinez a effectué cette semaine une mission exploratoire au Caire, à Damas, en Israël et à Amman où elle a notamment rencontré le re-

présentant du CNP, Abdul Hamid Al Sayeh. La Jordanie, l'Egypte, la Syrie, le CNP et Israël sont invités à une conférence parlementaire internationale à Strasbourg en juin. Un parlementaire européen s'est toutefois demandé "si les responsables israéliens vont accepter de participer à cette conférence, symbole de la conférence internationale qu'ils rejettent."

Le premier contact officiel entre la Grande Bretagne et l'OLP a eu lieu le 14 janvier à Tunis, aboutissant à une communauté de vues concernant la nature d'une conférence de paix au Proche-Orient. Le secrétaire d'Etat au Foreign Office, William Waldegrave, qui a rencontré Yasser Arafat, a qualifié l'entretien d'"occasion historique" et de "développement majeur dans la politique de la Grande Bretagne".

Nabil Shaath, président de la commission politique du CNP et auteur du rapport politique qui a abouti, à la proclamation de l'indépendance d'un Etat palestinien, a commencé son intervention par un salut de paix en hébreu et en arabe. "Salam-shalom". "La survie

des deux peuples est importante, et partant la survie du monde". a-t-il dit, assurant que le peuple palestinien n'envisageait pas de survie dans un ghetto. Il s'est prononcé pour "l'indépendance dans l'interdépendance", n'excluant pas "une confédération avec d'autres Etats arabes de la région". Il a assuré que les Palestiniens, en raison de leur histoire récente, sont "les plus aptes à fonder un état démocratique", estimant que l'Europe et l'Union Soviétique auront un "rôle à jouer au stade de l'octroi des garanties au règlement de paix".

Paul Kassler, professeur au Collège de France, parlant "au nom des juifs de la diaspora de France, profondément attachés à Israël", a déclaré que "la solidarité avec les forces de paix israéliennes et les Palestiniens qui souffrent est un impératif moral catégorique". "Israël doit se libérer d'une occupation détestable, qui menace sa fibre morale et son avenir et qui pour les Palestiniens sera la fin d'un long cauchemar", a-t-il dit.

Yael Tamir, porte-parole de "Paix maintenant", a préconisé qu'Israéliens et Palestiniens lancent en commun un appel pour "une journée non violente pour la paix au Moyen-Orient". Shoulaimon Aloni, députée et chef du Ratz (gauche israélienne), a estimé qu'il "fallait parler à l'OLP".

La fin de l'ère Kissinger

En un mois, l'héritage figé légué par Henry Kissinger au Proche-Orient s'est disloqué, ouvrant une voie à la négociation sans précédent depuis quarante ans.

L'ancien Secrétaire d'Etat, déterminé à parvenir à la paix aux seules conditions des Etats-Unis, avait élaboré dans les années 70 une stratégie de verrouillage: exclusion de l'OLP du processus de paix, division du camp arabe, mise à l'écart de l'Union soviétique et de l'Europe.

Signé avec Israël en 1975, l'engagement américain de ne pas reconnaître ni négocier avec l'OLP tant qu'elle ne reconnaissait pas le droit d'Israël à exister (résolutions 242 et 338) et qu'elle ne renonçait pas au terrorisme, s'est évanoui le 15 décembre, avec l'ouverture d'un "dialogue substantiel" avec l'OLP.

La politique des "petits pas" de Kissinger avait divisé en 1979 l'Egypte et la Syrie, lors du traité de paix séparé israélo-égyptien. Or, depuis quelque temps, Damas et Le Caire tendent à se réconcilier, en prévision d'une réintégration officielle de l'Egypte dans la communauté arabe.

L'ONU est redevenue un pivot du déblocage au Proche-Orient: tous les Etats arabes appellent de leurs vœux à une conférence internationale sous son égide et même Shamir a prononcé cette semaine le mot tabou "ONU", même s'il n'envisage aucun rôle actif des Nations-Unies dans les négociations. Camp David est mort.

Enfin, l'Europe et l'URSS sont entrées dans la danse. La CEE multiplie les contacts (cf. ci-dessus) et Moscou a déjà joué un rôle essentiel dans l'évolution de l'OLP. La face du monde a changé.

"Salam-shalom"

Un premier débat indirect et public a eu lieu jeudi et vendredi à Paris, entre des députés israéliens et des représentants de l'OLP, à l'occasion d'un colloque organisé au Sénat sur le rôle de l'Europe dans la recherche de la paix au Proche-Orient.

Sans s'adresser officiellement la parole, en raison de la législation d'Israël qui interdit tout contact à ses ressortissants avec la centrale palestinienne, Israéliens et Palestiniens, assis sur la même rangée mais séparés par quelques invités, se sont succédés à la tribune.

Love Eliav, député, ancien secrétaire général du parti travailliste israélien, a plaidé pour un compromis qui ne peut être atteint qu'avec la participation de l'OLP. "La partie adverse, c'est l'OLP", a-t-il ajouté.

Il a préconisé la mise sur pied d'une confédération israélo-jordanienne, qui prendrait pour nom "Isafour", premières syllabes en arabe d'Israël, de la Jordanie et de la Palestine.

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Dakar: victoire de Peugeot

Le Finlandais Ari Vatanen (Peugeot 405 turbo 16), en autos, et le Français Gilles Lalay (Rothmans Honda), dans la catégorie des motos, ont remporté, vendredi à Dakar, la 11-ème édition du rallye Paris-Dakar.

Ari Vatanen (36 ans), déjà vainqueur sur une Peugeot 205 turbo 16 en 1987, surmontera "l'Africain" pour ses nombreuses victoires dans les courses se disputant sur ce continent et ancien champion du monde des rallyes (1981), s'est imposé devant son coéquipier le Belge Jacky Ickx et le Français Patrick Tambay (Mitsubishi Pajero).

Sur les 396 concurrents — 155 motos et 241 autos — Paris le 25 décembre de Paris, 164 seulement — 104 autos et 60 motos — ont pu atteindre Dakar à l'issue d'une course sélective et qui cette année n'aura souffert d'aucun accident grave. (agences)

FIGURE

Mariages de raison

"Créer des mariages heureux" entre la Jordanie et les détenteurs de technologie, tel est le but que s'est fixé Amine Badreddine, 28 ans, président du Jordan Technology Group (JTG). Créé en septembre. Les pays industrialisés apportent leur savoir-faire technologique, la Jordanie ses hommes (cadres qualifiés, main-d'œuvre bon marché) et son rayonnement (connaissance des marchés régionaux, surtout du Golfe). Pour les firmes étrangères, l'avantage consiste à rapprocher leurs sites de production des marchés du Moyen-Orient. Pour la Jordanie, des emplois et une activité commerciale accrue.

Mais il ne s'agit pas de transformer le pays en un vulgaire "site d'assemblage". M. Badreddine insiste sur la notion de transfert de technologie: "C'est avant tout l'occasion pour les capitaux locaux de s'investir et de fructifier, dans des activités adaptées au pays", souligne-t-il. De fait, les projets de "co-production" associent des capitaux étrangers et jordaniens. Parmi les six projets déjà mis en branle, une usine d'assemblage d'hélicoptères, en association avec la Schweizer Aircraft (New York). Destinés au marché proche-oriental, les premiers appareils devraient être prêts à décoller dès février 1990. Dans le domaine aéronautique, toujours, un projet d'usine de maintenance, en marge de la commande de Mirage 2000 récemment contractée avec la France.

Le JTG a également monté une joint venture avec le constructeur A l'affiche

A l'affiche

THEATRE

Shades of Eve

Quatre femmes (une Américaine, quatre Jordaniennes) brosent par tableaux successifs le portrait psychologique de leurs concurrents. De la femme de ménage à la grande bourgeoise, en passant par la paysanne. Profond, drôle et cruel. (D'après Virginia Woolf. Jean Genet, etc.)

Centre culturel royal, jeudi 19 à 20h00. 2 JD.

CINEMA

Nuit blanche

Trois films d'affilée, assaonnés de spécialités culinaires maghrébines, jeudi 26 au CCF: "7 morts sur ordonnance", "Le cheval d'orgueil", "Mort un dimanche de pluie", à partir de 18h00. Nombre de places limité, à retirer d'urgence au CCF (4 JD pour la soirée).

Ciné-club

Stances respectivement à 13h00, 15h00, 17h00, 19h00, 20h30. Le 190 The King, The Robe, Gone with the Wind. From here to Eternity. The greatest show on earth. The 26. The verdict. 2001 space odyssey. The jazz singer. Secret of Santa Victoria. Blood and sand. Le 21: There was a crooked man, 55 years in Peking, John, Mona Lisa, Currier. Le 22: Thomas Crown affair. 48



Amine Badreddine

d'ordinateurs Goh Electronics de Singapour: il s'agit d'assembler en Jordanie des ordinateurs individuels et autres imprimantes. La JTG et la Royal Scientific Society détiennent 60% du capital de la société ainsi créée. Citons encore, en association avec la société californienne ESCA Genetics, la production de dattes "de laboratoire": à partir du tissu extraït du palmier, on obtient des dattes sans palmier, à très haut rendement et à coût réduit. Ce projet voit le jour à point nommé, après la destruction de la plus grande palmeraie du monde à Bassorah, qui a créé un vide sur le marché.

La JTG est dotée d'un capital de 1,3 millions de dinars, et compte plusieurs organismes paragonnementaux au nombre de ses actionnaires. Elle prend des participations dans toutes les joint-ventures ainsi formées. Mais surtout, la JTG s'efforce d'y drainer d'autres capitaux privés, de créer une dynamique d'investissement.

Marina Lyon

Wols, photos

Otto Wolfgang Schulz, dit Wols, est né en 1913 à Berlin et mort en 1951 à Paris. Photographe et peintre, influencé par les surréalistes, il est un précurseur de l'action painting.

Institut Goethe, du 5 du 28 janvier

TELEVISION

"Jamais avant le mariage", de Daniel Ceccaldi, avec Jean-Pierre Marielle et Mireille Darc: comédie. Un jeune photographe étudiant à la triple chance d'assister à l'accident d'un pilote célèbre, de lui porter secours et d'immortaliser l'exploit sur pellicule. Le lendemain, il est à la fois auteur et sujet dans les journaux. Et sa tante exploite la situation auprès de la riche famille du pilote... (JTV, vendredi 20 à 17h30)

François Ducroux

Mothers of the earth

Third World women live close to Nature — they are usually the gatherers of fuel and the providers of food. So they are in the best position to safeguard the earth's resources. Yet they find themselves forced to degrade the environment they depend on. Maggie Black explains why.

Look out of the window. Apart from people what do you see? Trees, grass, buildings, roads, vehicles, a power cable, an animal or two may be. Who manages this landscape?

In most parts of the world, all the items that need a permit, an ownership deed, or a machine for their presence are controlled and run by men: buildings made of brick and concrete, vehicles with or without engines, roads, power and utility installations, land that is fenced or somehow demarcated. So are all livestock that can be harnessed, slaughtered, hunted, or sold for a reasonable sum in the market.

The rest — soil, stones, sky, rivers, mountain streams, grass, plants, fodder, water, trees — is in the care of women. In most of the world the distribution of duties for environmental management is sex-linked. This is because women are the backbone of the economy operating in the natural environment.

In most countries of the developing world, 75 per cent of the people live in the rural areas. Their typical annual income is between \$50 and \$300 a year per head. The closer a family is living to the lower end of the scale, as in countries like Bangladesh or Ethiopia, the more dependent they are on the natural fruits of the soil. Unlike farming countries in industrialised nations who live in houses with piped water and electric lights, drive around in cars, and buy most of their food in shops, the lifestyle of most rural people in the de-

veloping world is inextricable from the natural environment and depends heavily on its produce.

In most of rural Africa, and to a considerable extent in Asia and Latin America, people still depend on natural materials for house construction: poles for support, mud for bricks and plaster, grass for thatch. They grow, tend, herd, and milk almost all their food. Nearly 60 per cent rely on open streams for their water supply. Over 90 per cent depend on trees, scrub, or animal wastes for fuel. They rely on their own feet for transport, and their own necks or backs for portage.

The "they" who perform almost all these tasks are women, together with their workforces — their out-of-school children. This is one reason why women in traditional rural societies place a high premium on frequent child-bearing and large families: the desired family size in many sub-Saharan countries is seven or more. Although high fertility is plainly desirable to women still locked into the old rural patterns of life, it also fuels population growth rates of more than three per cent a year which over time exert extra pressure on the environment upon which they depend.

Their cashless engagement with field and furrow enables women in rural areas to meet their families' essential survival needs for food, fuel and water. But because most of their work is unpaid and money rarely changes hands, it fails to register in any

book-keeping ledger and is therefore rated as non-productive. Things that grow wild or run free in the environment — trees, grass, fodder, and water — have no fixed monetary value. Although the natural resources consumed in this way represent a high proportion of the national household utilities bill in every developing country, foraging for them is economically invisible.

It is therefore impossible to quantify scientifically women's role as managers of the natural environment. The invisible can only be measured in the crudest way, by default. It is the have-not women whose families' well-being is most closely intertwined with their management of the environment: the 73 per cent of women in Africa and 47 per cent in Asia who never received any education; the 68 per cent and the 66 per cent respectively who are outside the official labour force. These women do not spend their time at home while a breadwinning male covers essential household costs; mostly, they are in precisely the opposite predicament.

Women's heavy involvement in food production offers another useful pointer. In Africa, women grow 70 per cent of the food, in Asia, 50-60 per cent, and in Latin America, 30 per cent. Since most census figures record that less than 20 per cent of women are in the agricultural workforce, there is a clear discrepancy between their vital interaction with the environment and its lack of registration by statisticians and economic planners. In some instances, what women do to support their households is disqualified from the system of national economic analysis simply because women do it: gender linkage defines its total lack of value.

Unfortunately, the environmental impact of women's activities as foragers and suppliers of household services is less easy to disqualify. Human pressure on woods, pastures, streams, and arable land is leading to deforestation, soil erosion, and the lowering of the water table. Because of forces they can scarcely understand, still less control, women are often the agents of their own resource depletion. Not only as producers but as consumers they bear the brunt of shortage. Women and their children suffer most from the environmental degradation which in recent years has precipitated famine in Ethiopia and the forward march of the desert across the Sahel. They make up 90 per cent of the "environmental refugees" claiming a patch of drought relief camp floor, erecting a hide and sapling hut on the edge of Niamey, Haregisa or Timbuktu.

Where the dwindling resource base of life on the land has not reached such a critical pitch, women are often left behind while their men go off to find work in town. In Kenya and Botswana over 40 per cent of households are headed by women, and in Latin American countries the figures run up to one-third. As population pressure grows and the environmental pinners tighten, rural women are forced into a marginal cash economy. In the plains of southern Kenya, where the grazing grounds are shrinking and the trees disappearing, the women lament their need for money to buy food and fuel and the canful of water they used to have for free. Other women, equally hard up, cut down the stumpy acacia trees and sell them as logs or as charcoal for the towns' informal power grid.



Women as wives and mothers are responsible for our health and well-being. Less widely acknowledged however, is their 1988 'State of World Population' Report points out, is their

role as managers of the environment and in the rural economy in developing countries. (Illustration: By Hector Cattoica)

Water holes which used to be dependable are running dry. In parts of Nigeria, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, and India, women may need to sleep overnight at the hole, placing their water pots in line to indicate their turn at the spring. To obtain the 30 litres per head regarded as the minimum for drinking, washing, cooking, and healthy living is out of the question. The state of health of

their children speak volumes about the effect of shortage. A clean water supply and proper sanitation can reduce childhood diarrhoeal disease by 40 per cent.

Many women in the shantytowns of Third World cities still depend greatly on Nature's bounty. In the slums of Port au Prince in Haiti, they brew, they stew up concoctions of food for sale by the bowlful, and every alleyway

and hovel is black with the ash of innumerable charcoal fires. High above the city, red patches on the bare hillsides show where the soil has been scratched away until it bleeds. Haiti is a portrait in erosion; food production is declining by 2.5 per cent a year.

Women's traditional role as farmers is regularly ignored. But when agriculture is in any way modernised their position can get

even worse. It is women, for example, who grind and pound grain to prepare flour for cooking. Yet when a powered mill arrives, it is rarely a woman who manages it or derives an income from it. When a bicycle is ridden, or a car or cart takes goods to market, there is always a man behind the handlebars, the reins or the wheel.

— UNFPA feature.

Women in China — a long way to equality

By Kathy Wilhelm
The Associated Press

BEIJING — Market-style economic reforms that have brought new prosperity to China have cost some women their jobs, others their education, and have revived traditional views that women should stay at home.

In the new atmosphere of competition and making money, the 40-year-old official line that women should share equally in building socialism has been muted.

Instead, employers, some local officials and even the influential People's Daily have said openly over the past year what many Chinese persisted in believing privately: that women are more suited for housework and should be "liberated" from outside jobs.

Some results: Many companies forced for the first time to make a profit are refusing to hire women, both uneducated and college graduates, saying they can't afford maternity benefits. Now that factories can fire workers, they are cutting nearly two women for every man, officials say.

In rural areas, many peasant families are pulling single teenage girls from school to put them to work, believing that only sons should be educated. More than four-fifths of children not in school are girls, officials say.

On the political side, the introduction of some choice in selecting public officials often has resulted in defeat for the relatively few women who hold office.

These trends, emerging mainly over the past year, are a startling about-face in a society where nearly 70 per cent of women work outside the home. They have generated heated debate in Chinese newspapers and protests from women's groups.

"We advocate that women hold outside jobs," said Cai Sheng, a spokeswoman for the all-China women's federation, an official organisation concerned with women's issues. "This is the first step in liberation. Only then can women achieve political status and economic independence."

Confucian code

For thousands of years, Chinese women's roles were strictly defined by a Confucian code that required obedience first to one's father, then to one's husband. Rural women often worked in the fields alongside men, but few were taught to read and write or played any role in the larger society.

Many young urban women joined in the political ferment that culminated in the Communist victory in 1949. The Communists outlawed the practice of binding women's feet to make them tiny, mandated education of both boys and girls and encouraged women to work in "building the new China."

Officials ensured that a few women sat on most decision-making bodies, even though none ever reached the pinnacle of power, the party politburo standing

committee. But Ms. Cai said in a recent interview that traditional views of women's roles remained strong, especially in the countryside. And statements by officials of some rural areas appear to buttress that contention.

"If women don't stay home, we men can't go to work... with a light heart," Li Fengzhuang, a spokesman for the government of Daqizhuang village, commented recently.

Daqizhuang, a community of 3,550 people in the Tianjin municipal region in East China, has gotten favourable publicity from the People's Daily because nearly half of the working-age women have become full-time housewives in the decade since China began its newest economic reforms.

Li said those reforms have increased village prosperity and made two incomes unnecessary. "By staying home, women can liberate Daqizhuang's productivity," he said in an interview. "What's wrong with people doing what they do best? It's appropriate for women to do (housework). They're more thorough, it's their speciality. Men have strong bodies and can do hard labour."

Literacy

Li said most of the housewives were illiterate and therefore made poor outside workers. Daqizhuang offers education programmes on closed-circuit television, but the subjects are cooking

and cleaning, not job skills.

Wu Yurong, 35, one of Daqizhuang's housewives, said she used to work in a factory cafeteria. She now concentrates on caring for her two children, 10 and 14, and making hot meals for her husband.

"Me go to work?" She asked surprised. "A woman can't earn enough." At the cafeteria she had made \$324 a year. Her husband now earns more than \$1,620 as a workshop foreman — more than twice the average worker's salary.

Although the People's Daily said approvingly that Daqizhuang may "set the trend for Chinese women in the future," Ms. Cai said it remains an exception so far.

More widespread, she said, is the problem of employers refusing to hire women or laying off those who are pregnant or have small children. The employers argue that they can't afford maternity benefits, usually about 70 per cent of wages, and that women with children tend to miss work more often and are more tired.

A recent official report said 13,000 women in the northeastern province of Liaoning lost their jobs in 1987 because they were pregnant or had just given birth.

Another report said more and more enterprises were rejecting women college graduates assigned to them. Perhaps in a sign that not all in power think women should stay at home, the official Xinhua news agency called the situation a crisis.

"Having children is necessary for society, and we think society should be responsible," Ms. Cai argued.

She supported experiments in several cities that seek to ease the burden on individual enterprises by having government and companies set up a collective fund to pay maternity benefits.

Most women would need maternity leave only once because China, trying to control its population, tries to limit each couple to one child.

Resistance to the traditionalist revival is strongest among young, educated women.

"After I marry I will still struggle to achieve my goals," said Liu Guanghong, 23, one of Daqizhuang's working women. She is in charge of the administrative office of one of Daqizhuang's corporations, and said her goal was to become company head.

"I am a woman of the '80s," said Ms. Liu. "My mother... is satisfied being a good wife and mother. But I want to pursue a career and improve myself."

However, even expressing such ambitions is difficult for many Chinese women because they will be mocked as immodest, Ms. Cai said. Many women also believe they cannot do as well as men.

"Apart from the sex discrimination by society," she said, "sex discrimination also exists in the thinking of women, in their sense of inferiority."

The key to change, she said, is education, "but it will take a long time, maybe decades."

Two worlds clash

By Moses Manoharan
Reuters

BONDA HILLS, India — In forests on a range of hills in eastern India, one of the world's most primitive tribes is fighting a losing battle to retain its identity.

"It is really a fight for survival for the Bonda tribe," said Durga Patnaik, a social worker among the 5,000 members of a tribe living on the Bonda range of Orissa state.

Tribal traditions include boys below 10 years of age marrying women in their late teens and then being initiated into sexual life in dormitories.

Patnaik said a Bonda colony had already settled at a lower altitude and adopted the clothes and habits of India's majority Hindu population living in the plains.

"But for 3,000 or so Bondas living at higher altitude, there is no compromise. They fight fiercely against change," he said.

A 500-kilometre journey from Bhubaneswar, the Orissa capital — a tough jeep ride into the hills and a trek through tropical forest — took a recent visitor to a cluster of 32 Bonda villages.

Along the last stretch, Bonda tribesmen armed with bows and arrows watched warily. Women hid their faces in fear as they climbed the hills with wood for cooking.

"They will not harm us because I am with you. Outsiders once faced trouble," said the government development officer responsible for the Bondas and

controlling entry of outsiders. In Mudilapada village, women wearing only loincloths and beads prepared food over earthen stoves.

Most of the men, also clad only in loincloths, were still out hunting or cultivating land as dusk fell over the hills.

Habits

Gangadhar Parida, an official of the Bonda tribal agency set up 10 years ago, said his aim was to help the tribe meet the challenge of modern society. "But they have some bad habits which we must help them change," he said.

Items on his list of change include Bonda marriage customs and clothing the tribeswomen. His efforts met a cool response. "Each tradition has a reason and we must not force change on them just to bring the tribe into our society," Patnaik said.

Boys marry young and are initiated into social customs by an older woman. He, in turn, looks after her in her old age. The Bondas also considered their women decently dressed and that was what mattered, the social worker said.

Patnaik said the government tried to change their lifestyle by moving them from mud huts to modern apartments and giving them iron stoves to replace earthen hearths.

They failed. Bondas preferred huts to modern dwellings, which often collapsed in bad weather because of the poor quality of building mate-

rial, a tribal agency official said. They spurned modern stoves because iron wasted heat, unlike earthen hearths which conserved heat for long periods.

"We also tried to tamper with their dormitory system in which young males and females spend nights in singing, dancing and love-making during the period between the harvest and sowing of crops," he said. That also failed.

Only 5 thousand

Usha Deka, anthropology professor in Orissa's Utkal University, said it was up to the tribal folk themselves to preserve their culture from modern civilisation.

"Five thousand people do not matter if you look at the interests of India's 800 million," he said.

He said India could not afford to have separate economic planning for small groups or stop power and railway projects to safeguard tribal homelands.

But the Bondas have friends such as Phulomani Santa, the area's former representative in the state parliament and one of only four tribal women to reach that position in Orissa.

Santa said the greatest threat was the forcible occupation of land for government development projects. Tribal families evicted for failure to produce title deeds ended up destitute.

"There is a growing feeling among tribals like the Bondas that in the end they will lose all their land. For a tribal, that will be the end of existence," Santa said.

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Noam Chomsky: Power is evil

Deliver us from evil

By Martin Woolcott

IN THE DEEPLY confused debate which the Vietnam war produced in the West, one voice rang out with special clarity and authority. Noam Chomsky gave the argument an intellectual and moral framework which it might otherwise have lacked.

His rigorous marshalling of the evidence in his essays and books on the war, and his unwavering concentration on the fundamental question of whether the United States had any right at all to be in Vietnam, put the struggle in a new perspective. And his careful analysis of the way in which the facts about the origins and development of the conflict had been twisted contributed to a new scepticism about how the war was being presented to the American and the Western public in the press, on television, and in academic work.

Chomsky did not retreat to his ivory tower — he is Professor of Linguistics at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology — when the Vietnam War ended. Indeed, through a series of further books, his critique of the war expanded to become a critique of American power in general and of the American intellectual class.

At 60, Chomsky has lost none of his passion or purpose. In Britain last week for a round of talks and meetings, he was warning again of the immoral nature of American policy and of the servility of the American intellectual establishment and the American press. The central problem, in his view, is what he calls "military Keynesianism" — corporate America's need for a high level of military spending and therefore for an enemy, or enemies, to justify such spending. It is true, he concedes, that there is now a desire to cut military costs. This, he says, represents "a fortunate conjunction with Gorbachev's need to reduce international tension and hostility so as to pursue internal reforms."

Thus Chomsky only palely reflects the new optimism about the superpowers. Like others he warns of the danger that Gorbachev's reforms may fail; unlike others, he believes that there are many in high places in the U.S. who want Gorbachev to fail — so that they can revert to policies of confrontation and war preparation. Those might even be, he hints, policies of confrontation with both Europe and the Soviet Union.

"The leading question in world affairs," he says, "is whether there will be a conflict between the U.S. and Europe." This has been developing, he argues, since the late 1950s when the trade balance began to shift in favour of Europe.

"Let's assume Gorbachev's efforts are successful. Then we may see a gradual restoration of the traditional semi-colonial relationship of Western Europe with the East." That, he suggests, might be seen by the American elite as going several steps down the road toward their nightmare of "the domination of the Eurasian landmass by a unified power." But — and here a touch of qualified optimism again — "maybe this can be worked out amicably" because of the interdependence of countries concerned, and the compelling need, not invisible even to these obtuse elites, for large scale cooperation on world problems.

"Military Keynesianism," which some certainly see as a simplistic key to American policy, is, however, for Chomsky only a particular form of elite control. The essence of the

Chomsky message is that power is evil. The control of the masses by the elite takes different forms in different societies. The Soviet Union is a "Leninist" state which, under Gorbachev, remains highly centralised and, in Chomsky's view, still uninterested in real popular participation. Japan is ruled in what Chomsky would call a "fascist" manner. Indeed no existing state lacks a power structure, although in a handful there is a degree of genuine popular control.

If high military spending were to be replaced in America by a different kind of investment, about the size and nature of which the whole population debated, then that population would begin to demand a say in decisions across the board — and it is this derogation of power that the American elite cannot bring itself to permit, Chomsky argues.

He posits now a sort of race between the growth of a more civilised consciousness among ordinary people, something he sees manifested in such developments as feminism, and what he calls a "process of marginalising the population" in the capitalist democracies. This takes the form not of changes to constitutions, which are historic and not easily removed, but "draining them of content". In America, the election of a figurehead president (Reagan) is an example of the process. The devaluation of the presidency devalues the vote for the president and thus drains American democracy of its real content.

The masses are controlled in all states by propaganda, says Chomsky, but this is particularly important in democratic societies. Propaganda is provided by a "secular priesthood" of intellectuals, including journalists, who dress the cynical policies of the elite in morally acceptable clothes. Elements of the truth remain, because they are needed for practical reasons and because intellectuals with some moral stature "smuggle" them in, but they have to be sought out and, in effect, decoded.

It is upon this concept that Chomsky's actual technique as an analyst is based. "For a privileged minority," he has written, "Western democracy provides the leisure, the facilities, and the training to seek the truth lying hidden behind the veil of distortion and misrepresentation, ideology and

class interest through which the events of current history are presented to us."

There is undoubtedly something schematic and arid about the world that Chomsky paints for us. He seems both wholly cynical about the purposes of those in power, and wholly unfeeling. Those who direct American policy — and, by implication, those who direct the policy of any state — are allowed no regrets, no morals, no feelings, and when they change their policies they appear to do so for entirely Machiavellian reasons. Chomsky has little interest in the question of "good in bad" — of how there can be good behaviour in the context of bad policies — and seems to deny the complexity of human affairs by setting up too rigid an antithesis between an inherently amoral elite and an inherently moral mass. His recent work has underlined this because in many ways it represents less a development of his original ideas than a recapitulation of them. Nor do his brief references to alternative ways of organising human society carry much conviction.

But, when you meet him, Chomsky has a gentle presence, and the aura of a gifted and kindly teacher. His wispy and still boyish looks, in spite of the grey hair and the years, appeal. He is occasionally humorous — something he is not noted for in print — and his love of facts is endearing. He is in the prophetic tradition and you can no more truly argue with him than you could have with Isaiah or Ezekiel. If you oppose you will be gently corrected — if your intentions are deemed to be good — or blasted if they are seen as bad. His inner certainty seems complete.

That indeed remains his great strength, and the reason for his value to the rest of us. In an age of equivocation and moral mud, Chomsky knows what is good and strives to serve it. Whether it is the war in Vietnam, the massacres in Timor, or the Israeli invasion of south Lebanon, he has ripped away the curtains to reveal the murderous machinery behind. One does not have to accept his precise formulation of the problem of power or his particular version of Marxist and anarchist ideas to benefit from his rare combination of moral vision and intellectual rigour — The Guardian.

The plight of cyclone survivors

By Suprakash Ghoshal
Reuters

CALCUTTA — The dead are being dumped into the river, and the living flee to hide their nakedness when relief workers approach.

It is, says one survivor in India's West Bengal State, the kind of disaster which "not even relief supplies can help."

A cyclone struck Bangladesh and the southern part of West Bengal on the night of Nov. 29. It killed 100 in West Bengal and 5,000 people in Bangladesh.

In West Bengal, hundreds of thousands of people were condemned to even more impoverished lives in an over-crowded region. Nanibala Devi, 50, leans against a broken wall of what was once her home in the village of Hinglajun. Her family was killed in the storm.

"People are just dumping their dead in the river, or leaving them in the mud," she says. "We are all destined to that wretched end, we know, all of us."

Many of the villagers do not even care.

"I can't cry any more, you know. For whom should I cry? There is no one left," said Santosh Mondal, who found the bodies of his wife and children in a paddy field.

"He doesn't eat," his neighbour, Chaitan Bag, 60, says. "He doesn't talk, doesn't even sleep. He will never recover."

"And quite a number of people in these villages have been so hopelessly depressed. This is a kind of problem not even relief supplies can help."

What relief supplies there are inadequate, relief workers say. State health department reports say victims of diarrhoea, dysentery and fever are thronging village health centres, but there are no basic medicines to give them.

"Many people will die a slow, painful death, and though the deaths will be due to natural causes, I will hold the government responsible for them," said a medical official in Hasnabad who asked that his name not be used.

Some women are refusing help because they do not have enough

Man crying through space: Anyone there?

By Otto Wöhrbach

The writer is an astronomer and head of Freiburg's Planetarium.

MANY films have played out the scene of extra-terrestrial bodies landing on our planet. Soon after the first Unidentified Flying Objects have glided in, the first cities go up in flames. The conquest of Earth has begun.

Who doubts that the extra-terrestrial bodies could conquer the Earth if they wanted to do so? It is taken for granted that interstellar voyages demand advanced space technology. It is assumed that we would have nothing equal to set against their highly developed weapons technology.

But that is all wrong! If one day extra-terrestrial bodies should dare to land on Earth they would probably be defenceless against our aggression. They would not have a chance.

But how probable is such a landing? Are we alone in the universe?

There are many who support the idea that there is life in space. There is hardly a natural scientist who would not say yes if asked if there was extra-terrestrial life. Many of them believe that way out there in space it is teeming with life.

If space is abounding with life why is it that we know nothing about it? Why is it that extra-terrestrial bodies have not made contact with us?

The most obvious answer is that there are no extra-terrestrial bodies; we are alone in the cosmos.

Supporters of the theory that man is alone and abandoned in lifeless space, list the conditions that must prevail for man to be able to exist on a third planet in the solar system, created 4.6 billion years ago.

In fact several factors must combine for this, beginning with the real distance of the Earth to the Sun and including the availability of water and all the many other requirements which are fortunately to be found (solely?) on Earth.

The conclusion many natural scientists come to is that the whole process that leads to life depends on so many factors and so many strokes of luck that it could only happen successfully on Earth and nowhere else.

The supporters of the view that space is teeming with life retaliate to this with the view, anyone who

assumes that the Earth is the only inhabited planet in the whole of space, succumbs to the old view of mankind as the central point of the universe, which wrongly believes that man is alone in space, the high point, the aim, the crown of creation. And this over-estimate of man by man himself still prevails.

Naturally the advocates of the space-teeming-with-life theory are not content with philosophical arguments. Their optimism is based substantially on natural science principles.

Everywhere in space we find the same matter which has formed life on Earth. Furthermore this matter, even in the most distant corners of space, obeys the same natural laws as matter on Earth.

Why then should the Earth of all places be the sole planet with life, when the prerequisites for life exist in many other places in space?

A simple theory of probability lends this argument greater cogency.

In the Milky Way alone, our cosmic neighbour, there are 200 million stars. In this galaxy alone there would be 4,000 inhabited worlds, if only every hundredth star had planets, and if among them only in every hundredth instance a planet revolved round its star at the correct distance, and if every hundredth showed signs of having the proper conditions for life, and if in turn every tenth of them began to develop life, and if then in every fifth case this development led to intelligent life which did not come to an end.

And that despite the harsh selection process in which in our numerical example only every 50 millionth star would remain, circled by a planet with intelligent life.

But it must be noted that there is a small snag to this numerical example. Apart from the basic figure of 200 million stars all the other numbers are based on pure speculation. We do not know, for instance, whether every hundredth or every thousandth star has a planet.

To be honest we do not know if there is a single, other star except the Sun which is circled by planets.

These calculations show just how total our ignorance is. Depending on the author the data

about the number of inhabited planets in the Milky Way hovers between one and several million. But the calculation always comes up with the idea just how fertile the cosmos could be.

Asked the question: "But where are these extra-terrestrial bodies then? Why do we not hear a thing from them?" the supporters of life in space answer in unison: "Until now we have not paid enough consideration to the possibilities of extra-terrestrial life. We have been very sparing in the past with our own messages inviting other civilisations to reply to us."

This is in fact true. For three months in 1960 the American astronomer Frank Drake was allowed to search for signals from extra-terrestrial bodies using the radio-telescope at Green Bank. His project, named "Ozma" after the queen in the fantastic fairy-empire of Oz, reported nothing.

In 1968 the Soviets began a project eavesdropping on extra-terrestrial bodies but after a few months this was discontinued for lack of results.

Now astronomers, particularly Americans, are making efforts to find something out.

Since 1985 Harvard University has been listening to the skies round the clock with its 26-metre radio-telescope to find out if there is a signal from extra-terrestrial bodies.

Long ago, before earthly astronomers sought for signs of extra-terrestrial life, they were tempted to send out messages into the cosmos.

Today we at last have the technical possibilities to give us some idea of the cosmos. Five messages are now under way, which, theoretically, could be picked up by extra-terrestrial bodies.

The two earliest are identical plaques, carried on board the American space probes Pioneer 10 and Pioneer 11, giving notice of our existence to space.

What feelings would be stirred in the alien living creature at the sight of the two human beings — anxiety, amazement, happiness?

It is only to be hoped that the extra-terrestrial bodies would recognise the lower part of the drawing for what it is — a representation of our solar system and its nine planets.

The senders of this cosmic

"message in a bottle" live on the third planet. The cosmic message is obviously propelled in a curve round the fifth planet and then out into space.

The information from the space probes Voyager 1 and 2, sent out into space in 1978, was much more far-reaching. Each space probe carried a picture-sound record. By using the right play-back equipment it is possible to extract from the record pictures, sounds, speech and music from Earth, which suggest a bizarre potpourri of human civilisation.

All four space probes are gliding through the Milky Way at a leisurely 10,000 kilometres per hour. Hundreds of thousands of years will have to pass by before they are only half-way to approaching another star.

A radio message has been hurtling through space for the past 18 years at the speed of light, that is four times faster than the four spaces probes.

It was transmitted from the largest radio-telescope in the world on Puerto Rico on 16 November 1974.

There were 201 invited guests present, who did not want to miss the impressive moment when the message from mankind was sent out into space with the power of 500,000 watts.

The message is based on the sequence of 1,679 zeros and ones. The inventors of this gave assurances that every kind of intelligence could easily decode the contents of the message.

The alien beings would, hopefully, first ask themselves: "Why only 1,679 numbers?" The answer is simple: 1,679 is the sum of multiplying 73 by 23. After puzzling over this for some time the extra-terrestrial bodies would discover that they must arrange the zeros and ones in 73 lines each containing 23 numbers.

Now they only have to be clever enough to replace the zeros with a black square and the ones with a coloured square and then, see, the confusion of numbers re-arranges itself into a picture, the world's visiting card.

Will our message ever be received? It has been transmitted in the direction of the spherical star formation M 13, in which there are 500,000 individual stars.

During the three minutes of the transmission perhaps someone out there had tuned into the

correct wave length. But even if the hoped-for listener replied instantly mankind would have to exercise a little patience: the reply could only be received on Earth at the earliest after 50,000 years.

The news about our existence was put out into space on ordinary radio wave lengths. The strongest transmitters in the world are television transmitters. For the past 50 years television transmissions have not only been disseminated on Earth but into space. There is nothing and no one who can prevent speed-of-light television waves from penetrating space.

The first television transmission made with any kind of strength was the televising of the opening of the 1936 Olympic Games in Berlin. The transmission would already have reached stars, 52 light years distant from us.

If we are unlucky enough then extra-terrestrial bodies have seen and heard their first human being, "Adolf Hitler."

"Music from Studio B" or the television parlour game "Who am I?" have not yet got that far, or the reports over the various wars of the past ten years.

If the extra-terrestrial bodies do not live too far away from us, then they would have received their first information about us from television transmissions.

How many planets reverberate from the laughter of their inhabitants (or what goes for laughter among them) after they became aware of the hustle and bustle on Earth for the first time?

It is more than likely that the extra-terrestrial bodies will not react with laughter or annoyance but rather with incomprehension. Should there be other living beings, apart from us, existing at the present time somewhere in the Milky Way, it can be guaranteed that they are peaceable and sensible.

How do we know that? If we dare to speculate the extra-terrestrial civilisations would be considerably older than ours. Their own technical age would have begun many thousands of years ago and they have still survived.

If the extra-terrestrial bodies were as aggressive and unreasonable as we are, then they would have survived scarcely 500 years (of their own technical era — (Nürnberg Nachrichten).

Perfecting the Arabic calligraphic art

By Peter McCree

IN THE last thirty years, the rapid development of the Middle East as a business and commercial centre has led to a growth in the demand for printed and display material of every kind. The associated areas of graphic design, typography and display lettering have all developed rapidly and designers have sought new ways to supplement rather than replace the work of the traditional calligrapher.

Perhaps the most important influence on modern Arabic calligraphy and typography has been the work of the Lebanese calligrapher and designer Mourad Boutros. Internationally acknowledged as one of the most outstanding modern Arabic graphic designers and calligraphers, Boutros is regarded by many as a twentieth century Ibn Muqlah, the 10th century calligrapher, who was responsible for consolidating and systematising the major cursive styles.

It should be remembered that although Arabic is an ancient language, used in 22 countries and spoken by more than 175 million people, it was the coming of Islam that developed the need to record every word of the Quran in exact detail.

The first copies of the Quran were written in the scripts of Mecca and Medina, local variants of a static, angular script known as Jazm, but these were soon superseded by Kufic, which took its name from the town of Kufah, an early centre of Islamic learning.

Kufic dominant
for 300 years

Kufic became the dominant script for more than three hundred years. Early in the ninth century decorative elements and illumination were added to Kufic texts and the letters themselves developed into purely ornamental forms.

With the spread of Islam, the need for increased clarity became ever more important and various cursive styles gradually came to prominence.

Then Abū Ali Mohammad Ibn Muqlah — to use his full name — used his knowledge of geometry to produce a comprehensive system of scientific calligraphic rules. He redesigned the form of the letter using three standard, mathematically balanced units: the rhombic dot, the Alif and the circle.

Ibn Muqlah applied his geometric system to the major cursive styles and later calligraphers, including Yaqut, perfected and beautified them. These scripts went on to evolve special ornamental forms which began to compete successfully with Kufic.

Later calligraphic development saw the introduction of further new styles and from the late mediaeval period to the present day, various derivative scripts have been created to meet particular needs.

Boutros, now based in London, was apprenticed to a master calligrapher from the age of 15. He learned to use the traditional bamboo pens and vegetable inks in the time-honoured way. But he was soon to leave his teachers behind, both in terms of technical skill and creative expertise.

Boutros was quick to appreciate and to anticipate the demands of the technological revolution. Designers wanted flexibility and speed and there was a need for contemporary Arabic scripts that combined maximum legibility with suitability for dry transfer and typesetting applications.

Discussions with Letraset followed and in 1976, the very first Arabic dry transfer typefaces were launched, designed by Boutros. Today, as Arabic typographic consultant to Letraset, Boutros continues to create original typefaces and supervises the production stages of all their Ara-

bic typefaces. Of the 50 or so Letraset styles currently on the market, Boutros' Advertisers Naskh remains the most famous and widely used, renowned for its harmony of proportion and versatility. Based on the traditional Naskh calligraphic style, but adapted for maximum flexibility of usage with the most advanced type technology, Advertisers Naskh is used as an equivalent to Helvetica for converting western advertising and promotional materials. It has also been widely used for combined signage throughout the Middle East for airports, hospitals, roads and schools.

As well as concentrating on typeface design, Boutros has utilised his traditional calligraphic skills in the execution of a variety of creative projects. A succession of major international companies, concerned to promote their products into Arab consumer markets have commissioned him to produce Arabic conversions of their established logotypes, perfectly balanced for style, weight and legibility. Arab companies, too, have sought his talents to produce their own distinctive logotypes and trademarks, many of which are splendid examples of the calligrapher's art.

Always look to the future

But perhaps Boutros' greatest talent is his ability to continually look towards the future. His latest project is the development, production and marketing of a range of Arabic alphabets suitable for today's (and tomorrow's) state-of-the-art typesetting and lettering systems. His designs have been carefully prepared to reflect the needs of contemporary Arabic typography, retaining the best of traditional influences and applying the highest standards of form, construction and legibility.

Advanced computer-design techniques have been used in this work. Sophisticated programmes that convert alphabets into the digital resolutions used by the diverse range of printing devices have enabled Boutros to ensure that these new typefaces will function under all conditions.

His latest range of typestyles, marketed in conjunction with ITC are stored in Ikarus format, the industry standard for digital typeface storage. This data can be readily converted via software into formats for the production of artwork, or into the data required by signmaking systems, typesetters, laser printers and other sys-

tems. Structurally, Arabic alphabets are much more complex than their Latin counterparts and this unique breakthrough in typeface technology now means that design-

ners can, for the first time, expect the same standards of design, precision, resolution, flexibility and speed from Arabic as from Latin type families. — Media International.

Bekanntmachung fuer Deutsche zur Wahl zum Europaischen Parlament

Am 18. Juni 1989 findet die Wahl der Abgeordneten des Europaischen Parlaments aus der Bundesrepublik Deutschland statt.

Deutschland, die ausserhalb der Bundesrepublik Deutschland einschliesslich des Landes Berlin leben und dort keine Wohnung mehr innehaben, koennen bei Vorliegen der sonstigen wahlrechtlichen Voraussetzungen an der Wahl teilnehmen, wenn sie

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Antragsvordrucke (Formblaetter) sowie informierende Merkblaetter koennen bei den diplomatischen und berufskonsularischen Vertretungen der Bundesrepublik Deutschland, beim Bundeswahlleiter, Postfach 55 28, D-6200 Wiesbaden 1, bei den Kreis- und Stadtwahlleitern in der Bundesrepublik Deutschland angefordert werden.

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Banks try to lure Saudi investors to buy bonds

NICOSIA (R) — Saudi Arabia's banks are urging cagey investors to buy more treasury bonds, being issued for a second year to finance a government budget deficit.

Bankers said they were repackaging the bonds to lure conservative, cash-oriented Saudi institutional and private investors whose wariness has so far hindered development of a secondary market.

"The banks are liquid," a trader said. "The only problem is that we have to get customers to commit their money for a little bit longer — you can't fund your five-year bonds with one month's money."

Bankers have settled their first bond issue since King Fahd announced on Jan. 2 that the government would sell 25 billion riyals (\$6.67 billion) worth of bonds in 1989 to finance a spending gap caused by years of low oil revenues.

Last year the government raised 30 billion riyals (\$8 billion) from bonds, more than half of them sold to government agencies.

Dealers said the Saudi Arabian Monetary Agency (SAMA) seemed to be continuing fortnightly 1.5 billion riyal (\$400 million) offerings of two-, three-, four- and five-year maturities priced 30 to 50 basis points above like-dated U.S. treasury instruments.

But they said enthusiasm for

the latest issue was weak, with banks taking only between 25 per cent and 50 per cent of the offering.

"Part of the problem is concern about international interest rates," said a banker. "The international markets are not friendly — yield curves are flat and sometimes inverse."

"If getting primary customers to buy the bonds is difficult, then secondary customers will be even worse," said another.

The larger of the kingdom's 12 commercial banks plan to set up mutual funds based on the bonds for small investors. Several look likely to be introduced in coming months.

Some banks already offer similar schemes to private investors based on European and U.S. money markets.

At least one bank is considering issuing its own bonds tied to the government's, but for amounts smaller than SAMA's one million riyal minimum face value.

But the banks' main thrust will be to develop an active market where the kingdom's large private and institutional investors can trade the bonds freely.

Bankers said a committee of banks had been formed under

SAMA auspices to decide on procedures, but progress had been slow.

They said some secondary market deals had already been made, including repurchase agreements where banks sell the bonds to investors and buy them back later at a fixed price.

"It takes a long time," said a banker. "People are very conservative. They have to accept the idea they can invest in government instruments."

Bankers said Saudi Arabia's financial markets were becoming more sophisticated, though development of a stock market has been slow since a new share exchange closed in 1987 after only a few weeks of operation.

"But now the stock market is far less important," said a banker. "You're in a system where private companies don't need money. Saudi Arabia's problem is to tap its incredibly liquid internal markets to finance its deficit."

Government agencies and banks are flush with hundreds of billions of riyals and many individuals have stashed away currency or sent funds abroad.

Bankers said once a secondary securities market was developed, the next step would be for non-government entities to start issuing bonds.

"(The market) is on its way to sophistication. We have to go step by step," said a banker.

Baker opposes shifting Third World debt to U.S. taxpayers

WASHINGTON (AP) — James Baker, nominated to be secretary of state, told Senators Tuesday that he opposes shifting the burden of Third World debt to taxpayers in the United States or other creditor countries.

He added that reform of Third World countries' economies will need new capital and somehow that capital must be found.

Baker said he thought a way could be found to deal with the problem that did not shift the burden. He criticized a plan of Japan's former finance minister, Kiichi Miyazawa, which he said went in that direction.

"In addition, we were concerned that that proposal would put a premium upon repudiation by countries of their debt," he said.

"That's one of the problems you have with these suggestions that come forward about creating a facility in the International Monetary Fund to buy Third World debt (at a discount and

make the discount available to a Third World nation. What that tends to do is put a premium on repudiation of a debt, because if a country says it's not going to pay, then the discount is greater," he explained.

Third World debt, now about \$1.3 trillion, is expected to get more attention from the administration of President-elect George Bush, who takes office Friday. He has said the problem needs a new look.

Gerhard Stoltenberg, the West German minister of finance, said in Washington last week that the United States and six of its major allies would join in a meeting on the subject soon.

Senator Paul Sarbanes, chairman of the Joint Economic Committee of Congress, said it was unfair that banks should be selling debt at a discount without any benefit going to the debtor country.

"Yes, I don't argue...." Baker

began to reply, but Sarbanes cut him off and turned to another subject.

Baker said he was disappointed that banks had made no more new loans under his proposal of 1985, which called for them to lend an additional \$20 billion in the Third World during the following three years.

"I'm disappointed that commercial banks that made many loans in the 1970s did not see fit, in the face of reforms by many of those countries down there, to come forward with additional capital in the 1980s," he said.

Bankers say they have lent about \$6 billion a year in the last three years, and that more loans should come from governments and intergovernmental institutions like the Fund.

Baker said he would worry that any plan requiring banks to take a specific proportion of losses would be contrary to the U.S. constitution.

Japan sets new budget at \$475 billion

TOKYO (R) — Japan, enjoying the fruits of a booming economy, Wednesday said it plans the biggest increase in the government budget for eight years.

Japanese officials told report-

ers that the government has set a 60.41 trillion-yen (\$475 billion) budget for the year beginning April 1, up 6.6 per cent from plans for the current fiscal year.

The government can afford

such a large increase because Japan's rapid economic growth has dramatically boosted tax revenues, they said.

That means the government can increase spending and cut its borrowing at the same time, keeping on track for its goal of putting its fiscal house in order.

Defence and overseas aid will be the main beneficiaries of the government's largesse.

Defence spending is slated to rise about six per cent to around 3.9 trillion yen (about \$30 billion), while overseas aid is expected to increase more than seven per cent, to some 750 billion yen (\$6 billion).

Japanese officials described the budget as neutral for the economy, saying that it would neither

stimulate nor discourage economic activity.

With the economy already expanding at a fast clip, there was no need for Japan to use the budget to stimulate economic growth, Finance Minister Tetsuo Murayama said.

"It is more important to prolong Japan's economic growth as long as possible," he told reporters.

He said that the budget would help ensure that the government meets its target of ending the issuance of budget deficit financing bonds in 1990/91.

The Finance Ministry will now negotiate with spending departments on the details of the budget before the government comes up with its final draft on Jan. 24.

The budget must then be approved by parliament, but its passage is assured because of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party's overwhelming majority there.

Earlier, Japan forecast slower economic growth and a small fall in its trade surplus for the coming year, but said that it was not worried about either development.

The forecast, endorsed by the cabinet Wednesday, calls for the trade surplus to drop to \$88 billion in 1989/90 from \$93 billion this fiscal year and growth to slow to four per cent from 4.9.

Japanese officials expressed satisfaction with the outlook because they expect domestic demand to remain the driving force behind the economy in the fiscal year beginning April 1.

"The forecast clearly illustrates Japan's efforts to expand domestic demand in response to requests from abroad," Foreign Minister Sosuke Uno told reporters.

Japan was not worried about the expected slowdown in growth because the economy needed to cool off from its recent torrid pace, officials told reporters.

While the big size of the trade surplus remains a concern, at least it is headed in the right direction — downwards, they said.

"We are on the right track and will continue to be so," said Mitoji Yabunaka, a director at the Foreign Ministry.

ECONOMIC NEWS BRIEFS

Arabs to build more aluminum plants

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia (AP) — Saudi Arabia will construct an aluminum smelter with an annual production capacity of 220,000 tons yearly as part of a Gulf Cooperation Council plan to make the region a leading aluminum producer, the kingdom's English-language daily Arab News reported Tuesday. The project to build a smelter in the Red Sea port of Yanbu was approved by Saudi Industry and Electricity Minister Abdul Aziz Al Zamil, the newspaper said. At present, two smelters are in operation in the Gulf, one in Bahrain and the other in Dubai. Both are state-owned corporations and are in the process of expanding capacity. The Arab News said the Gulf region could eventually support five more smelters, raising overall output to 1.5 million tons of aluminum yearly. The paper said that feasibility studies have been completed for the Yanbu smelter as well as one at Umm Said in Qatar and Khor Al Zubair in Iraq. Talks on construction of the Qatar smelter are under way in Doha, the paper said, between the government and the Doha Aluminum Company (Dohal) set up to implement the plan, it said.

Iran purchases four power plants

NICOSIA, Cyprus (AP) — Iran has signed a \$25 million contract to purchase four power plants from Yugoslavia in an effort to ease acute electricity shortages that cause daily blackouts in cities around the nation. The Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) monitored in Nicosia, said the plants would be installed by Iranian workers "within the next three years," but gave no further details. Iran has made rebuilding power stations destroyed in the eight-year war with Iraq a top priority, partly because of popular discontent with long daily blackouts. Tehran television, also monitored in Nicosia, said Tuesday that the scheduled six-hour daily blackouts in larger cities would be reduced to three hours. The television did not say when the blackouts would be reduced. Power Minister Bijan Namdar Zangeneh warned Friday that blackouts would continue. "The ministry of power is in a fragile state with regard to power supply, and even present supplies are not reliable," IRNA quoted Zangeneh as saying. Zangeneh said last month that the national grid lost 2,500 megawatts of generating capacity because of damage to power plants during the war with Iraq.

U.S. firm to sell Soviet technology

HOUSTON (AP) — An American firm has entered a joint venture to market space scientific services, data and hardware for the Soviet Union, the company's president said. Space Commerce Corp. of Houston, Texas will handle public relations activities on behalf of the Soviets, market Soviet satellites and provide engineering and technical services, the Houston Chronicle reported Tuesday. "They make it, we sell it," Arthur Dula, Space Commerce president, said Tuesday. "It doesn't have a dollar value. We're both contributing and we'll split the profits," he said. Dula said the company will be getting a better understanding of what the Soviets have to sell. "I don't know what bits and pieces they make. There's going to be a large flow of information to us so we can sell these services," Dula said. The contract includes marketing and sale of the new — and up to now secret — satellite-borne nuclear reactor. Dula signed the contract with Glavcosmos, the civilian Soviet space agency, in New York Dec. 19. It became official Jan. 4 when Alexander Dunayev, head of Glavcosmos, signed it in Moscow.

Guinea-Bissau opts for privatisation

LISBON, Portugal (AP) — The president of Guinea-Bissau, Joao Bernardo Vieira, announced Tuesday his government would privatise the mostly state-owned industrial sector of the West African nation. According to an official contacted in the capital Bissau, Vieira said the government would open up "almost all" the industrial sector to foreign capital. In addition to plastics, brewing, rubber and auto factories that would be the first to be privatised, the official said a state-owned bank would also be on offer. According to the Portuguese news agency LUSA, Vieira told members of the 150-strong national people's assembly that 28 billion pesos (some \$19 million) had been granted in loans in 1988 within the country, mainly to private entrepreneurs. Guinea-Bissau has remained one of the world's poorest countries since it gained independence from Portugal in 1974.

Prospects appear gloomy for London insurers in '89

LONDON (R) — A grim year beckons for players in the London-based world insurance market who face huge claims but aren't hiked premiums because of competition for business.

Premiums may actually fall in 1989, some brokers say.

"Rates are coming down and prospects are for a continued deterioration in the coming year," agreed Andrew Goodwin, an analyst of insurance at stockbrokers Phillips and Drew.

Losses recently led the Lloyd's of London insurance market, where more than 30,000 members insure anything from Jumbo jets to pianists' hands, to ask whether it should scrap a policy which makes members personally liable on big claims to the full extent of their wealth.

But Chairman Murray Lawrence later said the policy would stay, arguing that it guaranteed Lloyd's policies were the most secure available to clients throughout the world.

Since it started 300 years ago in a London coffee house Lloyd's has never not settled a valid claim. But it is suffering now as losses from marine, aviation,

property and liability accounts pour in.

The property sector faces losses from a freak hurricane which hit Britain in 1987 doing \$3 billion worth of damage. It looks like the world's biggest insured loss.

A fire that wrecked Piper Alpha oil rig in Britain's North Sea last year brought a record man-made loss of \$1.4 billion.

Underwriters reckon Piper Alpha and claims from Brazil's Enchova oil platform, destroyed by fire, could bring almost \$2 billion in claims.

U.S. liability business has seen a steep rise in claims related to health damage from asbestos and the aviation sector is suffering, too.

An insurance analyst said: "Aviation is hellish despite recent losses."

John Parton, chairman of the Institute of London Underwriters, said insurers needed to put rates up. But premiums are being squeezed by competitors keen for a share of a world market which Lloyd's and London firms traditionally dominated.

Underwriters said France, Nor-

way, Italy and Sweden sought more business. "Maybe they can afford to cut prices because they have not had losses like Lloyd's," said one insurance broker.

Underwriters estimate Lloyd's carries about 80 per cent of the world's disaster reinsurance. Meanwhile, it takes time for the pain of big losses to work through the system.

Lloyd's 1985 results, published three years in arrears because of the long process settling claims, were almost 25 per cent down on the previous year.

Falling profits, uncertainty about the size of new losses and reduced tax advantages led 1,700 Lloyd's members to resign in 1988, the first time membership has dropped since 1970. But brokers say the remaining 31,300 members may be too many, given fierce competition to underwrite insurance risk.

Insurance sources say the stress is now on cutting costs while Lloyd's is also boosting reserves by increasing minimum capital requirements for members in 1990 to £250,000 (\$440,000) from £100,000 (\$175,000).

Fight for Harrods surfaces

LONDON (R) — A court Tuesday overturned a minister's ruling that a 29.9 per cent stake in House of Fraser. But a Lomrho takeover was blocked by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

Rowland was furious and felt betrayed when, after he had sold his stake to the Fayeds, a secretive family with a taste for things British, the government allowed them to go ahead and take over the firm. He said it was unfair.

The court Tuesday also ordered Lord Young to reconsider a decision not to publish a government report on the takeover pending investigations into it by the Serious Fraud Office.

Young has until Sunday to order the monopoly commission review, although legal sources expected an immediate appeal by his trade and industry department and by the House of Fraser.

"I am delighted, Rowland told reporters. "We will not give up whatever happens."

Rowland has accused the

violated anti-trust rules.

Before 1985, Lomrho had built a 29.9 per cent stake in House of Fraser. But a Lomrho takeover was blocked by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

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Rowland has accused the

Fayeds of contravening regulations by financing the takeover with money supplied in part by the sultan of Brunei, one of the world's richest men.

The sultan has denied playing any role at all.

Lord Justice Watkins said Lomrho had "coveted" Harrods for years and would still like to own it.

"There is no love lost between Lomrho and the Fayeds brothers," he said.

"Mr. Rowland and his fellow directors obviously feel that the Fayeds are not their cup of tea, that they won their way into House of Fraser by stealth and are not capable of managing its affairs properly," he added.

Rowland, once a porter at a London railway station, built Lomrho up from a sleepy African mining company in the 1960s to a major international group. It has 800 subsidiaries in more than 40 countries and turnover worth more than \$4.5 billion.

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Wednesday, Jan. 18, 1989
Central Bank official rates

	Buy	Sell	French franc	76.9	77.3
U.S. dollar	487.0	489.0	Japanese yen (for 100)	380.6	382.5
Pound Sterling	859.2	863.5	Dutch guilder	232.3	233.5
Deutsche mark	262.0	263.3	Swedish crown	77.1	77.5
Swiss franc	307.9	309.4	Italian lira (for 100)	35.9	36.0
			Belgian franc (for 10)	125.2	125.8

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Wednesday.

One Stertling	1.7630/40	U.S. dollar
One U.S. dollar	1.1958/68	Canadian dollar
	1.8588/95	Deutsche marks
	2.0973/83	Dutch guilders
	1.5795/5802	Swiss francs
	38.89/92	Belgian francs
	6.3400/50	French francs
	1361/1362	Italian lire
	127.60/70	Japanese yen
	6.3175/3225	Swedish crowns
	6.7350/7400	Norwegian crowns
	7.2000/50	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	402.30/402.80	U.S. dollars

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

SYDNEY — Prices were barely steady in nervous trade with investors awaiting announcement of U.S. November trade figures. The All Ordinaries index was up 0.3 at 1,502.3.

TOKYO — Underlying bullish sentiment pushed prices to a record close as bargain-hunters returned to the market. The Nikkei index climbed 127.03 to 31,354.55.

HONG KONG — The market consolidated a bull run, with the Hang Seng index closing above a key resistance point and setting a post-crash high. Dealers predicted further rises. The index gained 16.40 to 2,913.05.

SINGAPORE — Prices fell over a broad front on profit-taking in moderate trading. The Straits Times industrial index fell 10.41 to 1,094.41.

BOMBAY — Share prices drifted lower in poor trading as the market anxiously awaited Saturday's elections in the southern state of Tamil Nadu.

FRANKFURT — Shares closed firmer in thin trading, helped by a technical reaction to falls early in the week on worries about rising interest rates. The DAX index rose 7.02 to 1,323.68.

ZURICH — The market closed little changed after mixed trading, with activity muted before the release of U.S. trade data. The All Share Swiss index fell 0.9 to 963.6.

PARIS — Prices eased in thin midday trading, with dealers predicting little chance of a recovery before the end of the accounting month.

LONDON — Shares drifted from mid-session highs in fairly quiet late-afternoon trading following a larger-than-expected U.S. trade deficit for November and a subsequent dip on Wall Street. At 1535 GMT the FTSE 100 was up 11.5 at 1,879.2.

NEW YORK — Stocks showed narrow losses in mid-morning after the deficit figure was published. The Dow was down six at 2,209.

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SPORTS IN BRIEF

Real Madrid values stadium above star

MADRID (R) — Spanish soccer league champions Real Madrid prefer to give priority to renovating their stadium than signing outstanding Dutch Libero Ronald Koeman from PSV Eindhoven. Real's president Ramon Mendoza was quoted in Spanish newspapers Tuesday as saying the club had expensive plans for work on the giant Santiago Bernabé stadium, a landmark on Madrid's main avenue. The work, including increasing seating capacity and covering, could cost up to \$17 million.

British soccer membership scheme to curb travelling hooligans

LODNON (R) — The British government unveiled a controversial soccer identity card scheme Tuesday which will also give courts powers to stop convicted hooligans going to football matches in other countries. The football spectators bill, which has

drawn cries of foul from players and ruling conservative party politicians, is aimed at stamping out violence at or near grounds. Sports Minister Colin Moynihan told reporters the government was determined to see the identity card system implemented within the next 15 months.

Olympic star sentenced for wife's death

MAYAGUEZ, Puerto Rico (AP) — A superior court judge Tuesday sentenced former Olympic basketball star Richie Pietri Villanueva to 10 years probation for beating his sleeping wife to death with a hammer. Pietri, 44, was found guilty of killing, Ivonne Rodriguez Rodriguez, on May 6 as she slept. The two had four children. In his sentence, Mayaguez superior court judge Luis E. Jimenez Reveron ordered Pietri to do four hours of voluntary work each week and follow psychiatric treatment. Defence attorney Eudaldo Baez Cruz said Pietri will have to work every Saturday with children at the police athletic league in San German, Puerto Rico.

Australian Open

Graf chalks up whitewash

MELBOURNE (R) — Steffi Graf completed her fourth 6-0, 6-0 whitewash in a Grand Slam tournament Wednesday in the second round of the Australian Open.

Graf's performance against Canada's Rene Simpson, a repeat of her thrashing of Natalia Zvereva in the 1988 French Open final, varied between the staggeringly powerful and the merely excellent.

Simpson grabbed just six points in the first set. But after loosening up she trebled that tally in the second and occasionally stretched the defending champion.

Graf was, not surprisingly, pleased with her display but still refused to contemplate completing a second successive Grand Slam.

"I like the way she plays. It was nice for me to get into a rhythm and go for winners," said Graf, who won her first round match 6-1, 6-2.

"I enjoyed it much more when she began to challenge me in the second set. I had a lot of fun."

"To talk about the Grand Slam at the beginning of the year is not a thing I want to do. I've got a

chance but it's awfully difficult and out of my mind totally," Graf said.

Sixth-seeded American Zina Garrison and eighth-seeded West German Claudia Kohde-Kilsch joined Graf in the third round. Garrison with a hard-fought 7-6, 4-6, 6-4 victory over Belgium's Sandra Wasserman.

"I would have lost this match last year. It just shows there has been an improvement mentally in my game," said Garrison, ousted at the same stage of the 1988 open by unseeded Eva Krapf of Switzerland.

Kohde-Kilsch dropped her first set against Frenchwoman Christine Dancu but recovered to win 2-6, 6-1, 6-1.

In the men's competition American Aaron Krickstein, seeded 10, and 16th seed Amos Mansdorf both needed four sets to ensure victory.

Mansdorf downed American Rick Leach 6-7, 6-2, 6-4, 7-6

while Krickstein defeated West German Udo Riglewski 7-5, 2-6, 6-4, 6-1 on a blustery centre court.

The court's roof was left open as rain, which disrupted the programme over the first two days, kept away from the National Tennis Centre.

On a day when excitement was in short supply, spectator interest centred on court two where John McEnroe and Australian Mark Woodforde, a national hero after his five-set defeat of France's Yannick Noah Tuesday, made a successful Grand Slam debut as a doubles pairing.

It was like old times, with people fighting for a glimpse of the American, who honoured the occasion by tying on the red Bandana he wore in the days when he won three Wimbledon titles.

The two left-handers, who captured two doubles titles last year, beat Argentina's Horacio De La Pena and American David Wheaton 3-6, 6-3, 6-4.

Krickstein, who won his first title in four years at last week's New South Wales Open, never hit his best form but possessed

the most effective shot in the match, a whipped topspin forehand.

"Sometimes in the early rounds I get a little nervous and I'm just happy to stay alive," he said later.

Injuries have crippled Krickstein's efforts in the past three years but he said he had turned the corner with a victory over Stefan Edberg, Sweden's Wimbledon champion, at the U.S. Open last year.

"Beating Edberg showed that when I'm healthy I can compete with the top guys in the world. I don't know whether I'm ready to win a tournament like this yet but I'm capable of knocking off one or two guys."

"I'd like to have a shot at McEnroe in the fourth round."

Injury or illness look the only things that can stop Graf at this tournament, a fact she tacitly acknowledged at her press conference when asked whom she thought could beat her.

"Don't ask me," she muttered, obviously embarrassed. "It's a long season and anything can happen. But I'm trying my best and I'm in good shape."

First international for women's wrestling

STOCKHOLM (R) — Norway's women spent Monday night pinning the shoulders of their Swedish counterparts to the mat in the first full-scale women's international amateur wrestling clash.

Norway won 8-2 and it was deemed a big success despite some male opposition.

Thinka Berg, 24, Sweden's best woman in the 53-kg division, has wrestled since the age of 14. She brushed aside the critics.

"Poppycock. It is beautiful, technical and fast, unlike the men who mostly strut around the mat."

Pelle Svensson, a prominent Swedish lawyer who won a wrestling silver medal at the 1964 games in Tokyo, said: "This was great to watch. I'm convinced women's wrestling will be in the Olympics within 15 years."

Some wrestling officials were not so enthusiastic.

"I guess it's all right for young girls to wrestle. But it is not suitable after they develop breasts. This is a male sport," said Jan Torsell, board member of the Swedish Wrestling Association.

The Norwegian victory in weight divisions ranging from 38 to 70 Kg took place in the Swedish northern coastal town of

Onskoldsvik. It was watched by a 500-strong capacity crowd and covered by reporters from 17 newspapers and national television.

The event was billed as a world premiere by the International Wrestling Federation (IWA) because it was the first official women's international to include all 10 weight divisions.

Seventeen FILA member countries now officially recognize women's wrestling as a sport and the first European championships were held in France last year with 13 countries taking part.

The first FILA-sanctioned women's world championships are planned for Martigny, Switzerland, from Sept. 15 to 17 in conjunction with the men's championships.

France, the leading nation, has 2,000 women wrestlers, and the sport is growing in many countries, says Hakan Mellander, editor of the Swedish Wrestling Association's magazine.

"I think we will see a snowball effect," he said. "It's almost like wrestling was made for women with their lithe bodies. There is more speed and action than in men's wrestling."

YOUR DAILY HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY, JANUARY 19, 1989

— As Charted By The Carroll Righter Astrological Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES:

Feelings may be brought to the surface. Hasty opinions and unsettled conclusions may affect the day.

Avoid overreacting to passing tensions that cause upsets and create permanent emotional damage.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Handle nonharmonious situations with tact. Avoid conflicts with authority figures and arguments that have no winner.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) You may have to face the real world today and shed fantasy. The path to success has many if's and but's. Call upon your earthy nature.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) You may feel insecure when objectives do not fall into place. Try to work with, not against, those who have the same aims as you.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to July 21) Be a team player at the workplace to gain benefits. A disruptive attitude can give an unfavorable impression.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Great expectations will be realized if you can use patience for a short time longer. The romance button is turned on and all systems are go.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Keeping appointments may be a challenge. Dress for the best today using your best taste. Keep promises made to family members.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Love can get you out of the rut. Trying out something new could have sur-

prise results. Double-check to prevent losing personal items.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Happy times appear on the homefront with children. Your attitude inspires others. Follow health advice given to you recently.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) You may have to deal with a stubborn situation. It may seem like a stress test until finally settled in your favor.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Opposition to your ideas should not be taken too seriously. Someone with influence will help you. Relationships require understanding.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Current events run smoother than anticipated. Blast off on sexual and romantic adventures. Inspired confidence is the key factor.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Go with the flow. A spiritual approach will help you along. Stay away from affairs that can affect your employment.

If Your Child Is Born Today He or she will be ambitious and thirst for experiences that are unique, challenging, and at times, radical. Use patience when your child explores controversial affairs. Attraction to the bazaar will be quickly dropped when there is no practical goal.

"The Stars impel that you do not compel." What you make of your life is largely up to you!

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FORECAST FOR FRIDAY, JANUARY 20, 1989

— As Charted By The Carroll Righter Astrological Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES:

Be cautious of your actions and motivations. The battle of the sexes may be resurrected much to the displeasure of many. Some may take potshots at your emotional

service.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Don't think you are too important to take suggestions from others. Take a long range view and be a good listener.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Nothing is free, so be wary of those who spark your interest with flattery. The employment picture brightens in your favor.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Tending to household duties requires that you exercise self-discipline. Benefits come from previous efforts.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to July 21) An upbeat attitude will help you through the day. Put your worries aside and give yourself an emotional breather.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Take advantage of an opportunity to patch up a relationship and make peace. Your social evening glows hotter than you planned.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Being a team player at work helps your position. The domestic scene may feel like it is coming apart because of squabbles.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Great expectations can materialize. Keep a positive attitude as VIP's watch your performance. Help your mate

with responsibilities.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Getting your point across today may have barriers. Stay confident and avoid muddy exchanges due to insecurities and self doubt.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Provocative co-workers will be admonished. Avoid joining into any get-rich schemes that look good on the surface.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Use your wit and superior memory toward advancing your position. You share mutual respect which develops good relationships.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Set an example of self-control in dealing with young family members. Expansive and positive feelings are shared later in the day.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Set aside some playtime. Cuddle up with someone romantic. Take a different, more exciting approach to romance.

If Your Child Is Born Today He or she will be friendly, companionable and receptive toward the feelings of others. Your progeny will always be his or her own person, but will have the ability to fit into many different social circles. Your son or daughter will be romantic, personally adventurous and visionary.

"The Stars impel that you do not compel." What you make of your life is largely up to you!

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GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF
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WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

- Q.1—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠K54 ♠KQ95 ♠KJ42 ♠AK
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass
What do you bid now?
- Q.2—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠AKJ952 ♠Q93 ♠7 ♠A62
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 1 NT Pass
What do you bid now?
- Q.3—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠KQ10 ♠K93 ♠865 ♠AQJ6
Partner opens the bidding with one spade. What do you respond?
- Q.4—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠K54 ♠KQ95 ♠KJ42 ♠AK
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass
What do you bid now?
- Q.5—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠A5 ♠A87 ♠AQ8 ♠10962
Your right-hand opponent opens the bidding with one heart. What action do you take?
- Q.6—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠A5 ♠A87 ♠AQ8 ♠10962
The bidding has proceeded:
East South West North
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
What action do you take?
- Q.7—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠A5 ♠A87 ♠AQ8 ♠10962
The bidding has proceeded:
East South West North
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
What action do you take?
- Q.8—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠K54 ♠KQ95 ♠KJ42 ♠AK
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass
What do you bid now?

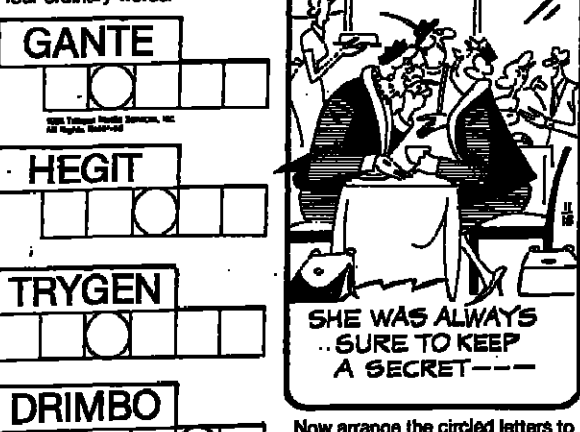
THE BETTER HALF. By Harris



"It's a new cold and flu medicine. Each capsule contains 100 milligrams of chicken soup."

JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.



Print answer here:

Jumbles: FINAL DERBY NUANCE HOURLY
Answer: Another name for a dialogue—A DOUBLE "CHIN"

Super Bowl fever hits U.S.

NEW YORK (AP) — The United States will largely grind to a halt for about four hours next Sunday as all eyes focus on the Super Bowl, the country's biggest one-day sporting event.

The San Francisco 49ers and Cincinnati Bengals will be battling for the championship of U.S. professional football, providing a brief diversion from the hassles of the real world.

Betting pools already are being organized at workplaces around the nation. You can wager on the

winner (San Francisco is favoured by seven points), or even the number of combined points that the two teams will score.

A few exuberant fans paint their faces or even fingernails for the occasion — black and orange stripes are particularly popular this year because they match the Bengals' helmets and uniforms.

Vendors are hawkling Bengals souvenirs from hastily erected stands on downtown Cincinnati streets. Retailers report brisk sales of black-and-orange items

Soviets lead in figure skating pairs

BIRMINGHAM (AP) — Marina Klimova and Sergei Ponomarenko emerged Tuesday for the four-year shadow of Soviet compatriots Natalia Bestemianova and Andrei Bukin to take the lead in the ice dance competition at the European figure skating championships.

Klimova and Ponomarenko, who have never won a major event after finishing second at eight previous world, Olympic and European championship appearances, got off to the perfect start in their quest for gold as they led a Soviet sweep of the first three placings in the compulsory routines.

Second were Maia Usova and Aleksandr Zhulin, with Natalia Annenko and Genrikh Sretenski third. Hungarians Klara Engi and Attila Tóth placed fourth, ahead of the leading Western pair, Sharon Jones and Paul Ashkham of Britain.

In sparkling, all-American costumes depicting the stars and stripes, Larisa Selezneva and Oleg Makarov won the original programme, which counts for 33 per cent of the total mark and replaced the former short programme.

Dancing to selected portions of Leonard Bernstein's score from "West Side Story," the married students from Leningrad combined grace and grandeur as they used the full width of the rink to include the eight required elements.

Second were East Germans Mandy Woetzel and Axel Rauschenbach, with Soviets Natalia Mishkutenok and Artur Dmitriev in third place.

Rice's ankle scares team

MIAMI (AP) — The thought of playing a Super Bowl without wide receiver Jerry Rice is enough to nauseate any San Francisco 49er fan. Or player. Or coach.

It's not something the National Football Conference champions will have to stomach Sunday, despite the ankle injury Rice suffered in practice Monday. Just ask any 49er — or any Cincinnati Bengal.

"If he can't walk, he'll play," Joe Montana said. The 49ers quarterback knows his all-pro receiver isn't about to let his first appearance in the U.S. professional football championship hinge on a twinge six days before kickoff. "Believe me, he'll play. I'll drag him out there."

If he doesn't do the dragging, Bengals coach Sam Wyche might. "This is a game where the two teams should be at full strength," Wyche said. "I hope he can play. Jerry Rice is one of the best players they've got and one of the best players

in the league. I hope all of them play, on both sides."

Rice left San Francisco's practice after injuring his right ankle and was listed as questionable for this rematch of the 1982 Super Bowl. San Francisco's first of two National Football League championships. In the minds of the media, there might be a question.

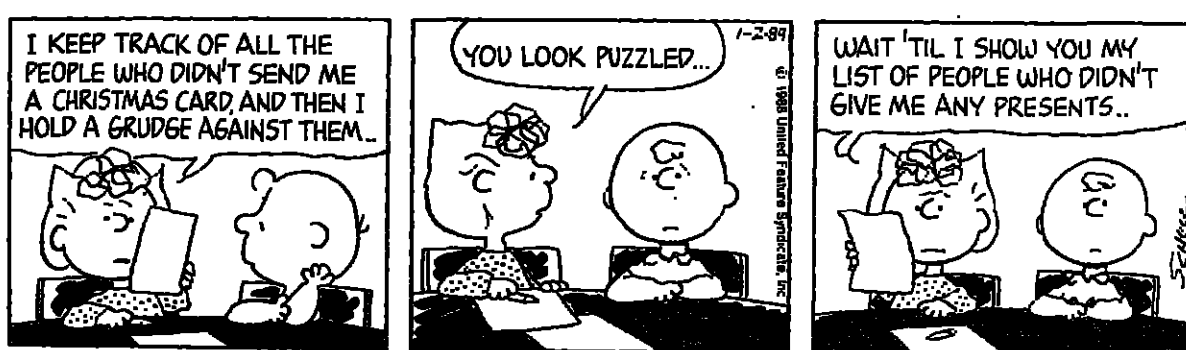
As for Rice's teammates and opponents, forget it.

"He's the man you want to get the football to," Cincinnati pro bowl safety David Fulcher said of Rice, who when healthy is the most dangerous receiver in the game.

When Rice's ankle finally healed earlier this season, the 49ers went on a four-game tear that boosted them to the NFC West title. In those four games, Rice averaged five receptions for 104 yards.

"He's our gamebreaker," Montana said. "That's no secret. And you go to our big-play guy in big games. That's not a secret, either."

Peanuts



Mutt'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



Jaruzelski overcomes opposition against legalising Solidarity

WARSAW (R) — Polish leader Wojciech Jaruzelski, bolstered by a Central Committee vote of confidence, Wednesday overcame a dramatic party revolt and pushed ahead with plans to legalise Solidarity.

Jaruzelski's victory in the unexpected showdown appeared to strengthen his hand in demanding that Solidarity accept his tough conditions for gradually re-legitimising the union he suppressed under martial law in 1981 and outlawed in 1982.

The vote at a stormy Central Committee session climaxed a five-month struggle within the party since last August when the government first proposed to reverse the ban and invited its leader Lech Walesa to talks on resolving Poland's problems.

Western diplomats said the party leaders appeared to have underestimated the "enormous resistance" in the party to restoring Solidarity, but that Jaruzelski had then shown real determination in pushing his proposal through.

The last Polish party leader to

seek a Central Committee confidence vote was Stanislaw Kania during the final weeks of Solidarity's legal existence in October 1981. He was promptly voted out of office and replaced by Jaruzelski.

Party sources said Jaruzelski demanded the vote from the party's top policy-making body Tuesday night after opponents of a deal with the banned union accused the leadership of abandoning the party's principles — the cardinal sin in the communist credo.

"In the discussions there were some sharp remarks from opponents from a dogmatic point of view unfriendly to the leadership," one party source present during the debate said.

"They said the leadership had made mistakes in many moments and was now trying to liquidate

them by giving up positions. They were not saying the leadership must go, but were saying it was sacrificing principles," the source added.

Jaruzelski, who has ruled since 1981, then demanded the confidence vote and won by a show of hands with only four abstentions — a massive endorsement of his leadership by the 230-member Central Committee.

"It gave the leadership the authority to win a majority for its resolution on pluralism," the party source said.

The 65-year-old general later won majority votes for the controversial Politburo resolutions on introducing political and trade union pluralism in Poland and major changes in the Communist Party.

The text on pluralism was not immediately available. It was believed to give the leadership the go-ahead to offer Solidarity legalisation under tight restrictions that would exclude it from mounting a challenge to communist rule.

'Pan Am bomb loaded in Germany'

LOCKERBIE, Scotland (Agencies) — Investigators believe the baggage container suspected of hiding a bomb that destroyed a Pan Am jumbo was loaded on ill-fated Flight 103 in Frankfurt, the Times of London reported Wednesday.

Detective Chief Superintendent John Orr, the Scottish officer heading the investigation, said Tuesday that police have identified the baggage container in which the bomb was planted.

Flight 103 originated on another plane in the West German city of Frankfurt, transferring continuing baggage and passengers to the Pan Am jumbo jet on arrival at London's Heathrow airport.

The Pan Am jumbo jet was flying to New York from London when it exploded last Dec. 21, killing all 259 passengers and crew. Eleven people died when flaming wreckage hit the small Scottish town of Lockerbie.

"We have now identified the baggage container within the aircraft in which the explosive device was placed, and substantial forensic and reconstructive work is being undertaken in this regard," Orr told a news conference.

He had refused to comment on whether the bomb was placed aboard in Frankfurt or London. But the Times said in its report:

"No details of the container, what else it held, where it was discovered or where it originated were given officially but police and accident investigators are now convinced that it was in luggage first loaded at Frankfurt."

The Times said police believe the bomb, consisting of Czechoslovak-made Semtex explosive, tore a hole in the aircraft, and the air pressure at 440 metres ripped the jet apart.

Investigators say the explosion occurred in the cargo area just in front of the left-hand wing of the Boeing 747.

Orr said about 10,000 items of baggage and other articles from the plane have been recovered in searches across the entire width of Scotland.

The transport department said Dec. 28 that investigators had found evidence of a bomb in two parts of the framework of a metal luggage pallet, the rack on which baggage is secured.

Orr said Scottish police are working with U.S. and West German authorities but refused to identify a group, if any, that police suspect of carrying out the bombing.

"There has been a lot of comment, some ill-informed, and I do not think it would be helpful to identify any group," he said.

Gunman's shooting spree kills 5 children in U.S.

STOCKTON, California (Agencies) — A man wearing combat fatigues opened fire Tuesday with an assault rifle on children in an elementary schoolyard and then invaded classrooms, killing five children and wounding 30 people before killing himself.

The children killed were all refugees from southeast Asia, police said.

Police identified the gunman as Patrick West, 24, originally from Stockton. He had lived recently in the states of Washington and Oregon.

"He was just standing there with a gun, making wide sweeps," said Lori Mackey, who teaches deaf children at the Cleveland elementary school. She ran to the window when she heard what she thought were firecrackers.

She said she saw a man standing in the schoolyard, spraying gunfire back and

forth as 400 to 500 students from six to eight years old played at recess.

She said when she realised what was happening, she took her 10 students into a rear room where they couldn't be seen.

"He was not talking, he was not yelling, he was very straight-faced. It did not look like he was really angry, it was just matter-of-factly," she said of the gunman, whom she described as about 1.7 metres tall with short, dark blond hair.

"There was mass chaos. There were kids running in every direction," she said.

Deputy police chief Ralph Tribble said West, dressed in battle gear and wearing a bullet-proof jacket, set his car on fire as a diversion before entering the school at about 11:40 a.m. (1940 GMT) Tuesday with two handguns and a AK-47 assault rifle.

Bruce Fernandes, a spokesman for the San Joaquin county office of emergency services, said six people were killed, including the gunman, and 30 wounded, most of them pupils. Deputy police chief Lucian Neely said at least 15 of the wounded were in critical condition.

Neely identified the dead children as Raphael Or, nine; Ram Chun, eight; Thy Tran, six; Sokhim An, six; and Ouan Lin, eight. Thy Tran was from Vietnam, the others from Kampuchea.

Three of the children were slain in the yard, and the other two were killed inside the school, Tribble said. He said at least one teacher was injured.

Neely said police had "no idea" of a motive.

West, who used the alias Patrick E. Purdy, had an "extensive criminal history,"

mostly in the Los Angeles area, Neely said. The crimes included soliciting for sex and narcotics and weapons violations, he said.

Purzel said West had lived with an aunt and uncle for several months until October and said the aunt, Julie Michael, "told me he was a loner and as a child he was an alcoholic."

Gun control call

California school superintendent Bill Honig said something had to be done about the violence that has struck U.S. schools.

"Long range, we in this society are going to have to do something to crack down on the availability of automatic weapons," he said.

At least one state lawmaker said he would push for approv-

al of a bill before the California legislature that would ban assault rifles of the type West was carrying.

The Stockton killings were the latest in a series of mass school shootings over the past year.

On Sept. 27, 1988, James William Wilson, 19, killed an eight-year-old girl and injured 10 other people when he shot up a lunchroom and a classroom in a Greenwood, South Carolina, elementary school. A wounded teacher tackled him when he laid down his gun.

On May 22, 1988, Lori Wasserman Dean, who had a history of mental problems, killed an eight-year-old boy and wounded five other children and an adult man before taking her own life. The incident took place in a grade school in Winnetka, Illinois.

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

Gorbachev meets Kissinger

MOSCOW (AP) — Soviet President Mikhail S. Gorbachev met Tuesday with former U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, who relayed to him President-elect George Bush's opinions on the future of superpower relations, TASS reported. Kissinger is taking part in a Moscow meeting of the trilateral commission, along with former French President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing and former Japanese Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone. TASS said Gorbachev and Kissinger discussed "some considerations on the development of Soviet-American relations, which were set forth by Kissinger on behalf of U.S. President-elect George Bush."

Garlic, onions cut stomach cancer risk

WASHINGTON (R) — Eating garlic and onions may significantly reduce the risk of stomach cancer, according to a study of nearly 1,700 Chinese published Tuesday in the *Journal of the National Cancer Institute*. The study, conducted in China's Shandong province where the death rate from stomach cancer is particularly high, found that the risk of the cancer declined according to the amount of garlic and onions consumed. The effect was also triggered by garlic and onion relatives like shallots and chives. Researchers from the U.S. National Cancer Institute, the Peking Institute for Cancer Research and other U.S. and Chinese centres interviewed 685 patients with stomach cancer and 1,131 cancer-free individuals in Shandong province. They found that those with the highest consumption of garlic and onions were 40 per cent less likely to develop stomach cancer than those who consumed the least.

Solarz: S. Asia nuclear race reduced

NEW DELHI (R) — U.S. Congressman Stephen Solarz said Tuesday he was hopeful that prospects of a nuclear arms race in the Indian subcontinent would be significantly reduced in the coming months. Solarz, chairman of the congressional Subcommittee on Asian and Pacific Affairs, told a news conference that recent events in South Asia had transformed relations between long-standing enemies India and Pakistan. Congress has repeatedly voiced fears that Pakistan is developing nuclear weapons. India detonated a nuclear explosion in 1974 but, like Pakistan, says its nuclear programme is peaceful. Solarz said Pakistan Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto had given him assurance to that effect. He was also encouraged by the establishment of warm personal relations between Bhutto and Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi during a meeting in Islamabad last month.

EEC heads urge steadier ties with U.S.

STRASBOURG (AP) — The chairman of the European Economic Community's (EEC) Council of Ministers Tuesday called for improving ties with the United States. In his maiden speech before the European Parliament, Spanish Foreign Minister Francisco Fernandez-Ordonez urged the 12 EEC member states to "strengthen the steady relations with the United States." Spain is taking over for the first time the chairmanship of the decision-making council. The most recent Trans-Atlantic dispute arose from the EEC's decision to ban imports of hormone-treated meat for which the U.S. retaliated by doubling tariffs on some European products. The 12 nations said they would counter-retaliate but have not yet imposed measures. "We must do everything to avoid trade wars, which can but have disastrous consequences with those who must remain our staunchest allies," Fernandez-Ordonez said. "The dialogue with the United States is of key importance."



ROBBING THE GRAVES — Charles Dunn (left), director of the State Bureau of Investigations stands with skeletons and artifacts collected from a nationwide grave robbery network as they face reporters in North Carolina Friday.

Karabakh move will ease tension—Ryzhkov

MOSCOW (R) — Prime Minister Nikolai Ryzhkov says a Kremlin decision to place the disputed territory of Nagorno-Karabakh under Moscow's virtual control will help ease ethnic tensions there.

Ryzhkov said Tuesday that last week's decision to put the territory under the jurisdiction of a special committee was in the interests of both Armenia and Azerbaijan — the two southern republics which claim it.

"This decision is not anybody's victory or anybody's defeat," Ryzhkov told a meeting of Communist Party activists in the Armenian capital, Yerevan.

The party newspaper Pravda, in its Tuesday editions, said dozens of top party, government and law enforcement officials in Armenia had been sacked and the interior minister reprimanded over the unrest that swept the republic last year.

Armenia's prime minister, Fadev Sarkisyan, 65, retired Tuesday at a plenary meeting of the Communist Party Central Committee in Yerevan and was replaced by Vladimir Markaryants, the official news agency TASS said.

The Armenian party's second secretary was also replaced at the meeting. No further details were disclosed about either move and it was not immediately known whether there was any connection to the recent sackings.

Pravda said 49 of Armenia's top officials, government and law enforcement officials, had been dismissed in December. TASS said Monday that more than 2,500 officials had been disciplined in Azerbaijan.

Ryzhkov, in his address reported by TASS and news, said the Nagorno-Karabakh decision "virtually removes the base for inter-ethnic tension."

"But it would be wrong to hope that normalisation would come of its own accord, from above."

The prime minister, in Armenia to oversee efforts to deal with last month's devastating earthquake, blamed both Armenian and Azerbaijani leaders for the unrest, which has killed nearly 80 people in the past year.

He urged them to take action against anyone inciting racial tension or hindering Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's perestroika reform programme.

Journalists set to challenge IRA gag

LONDON (AP) — The government's ban on broadcast interviews with supporters of terrorist groups in Northern Ireland will be challenged in court by journalists who attacked the policy Tuesday as "perverse" and unlawful.

Permission to bring the suit was granted "with some hesitation," said Lord Justice Sir Tasker Watkins, who joined two other justices in hearing arguments.

The order by Home Secretary Douglas Hurd barred the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) and the independent broadcaster authority from carrying interviews with spokesmen for 11 groups, including the Irish Republican Army (IRA) and its legal wing, Sinn Fein; the Ulster Defence Association and the Ulster Volunteer Force.

Hurd's order, issued in October, also banned the broadcast of words which supported, or invited support for, the banned organisations. However, broadcasters remained free to show pictures of the banned spokesmen and to paraphrase what they said.

David Pannick, an attorney for the journalists and television producers who sought to challenge the ban, argued that Hurd's order was illegal.

"The directions are so perverse an interference with the free flow of information in a democratic society that this restriction on the freedom of expression is outside the discretionary powers which were conferred upon the secretary of state by parliament," Pannick said.

Pannick said those discretionary powers were conferred by the

1981 Broadcasting Act in relation to the independent broadcasting authority and by the BBC's charter and license.

John Laws, counsel for the home secretary, contended that Hurd's order should not be subject to the courts, but to the political judgment of parliament.

He stressed that the television networks had not joined the challenge.

The court case is part of a campaign coordinated by the National Union of Journalists against restrictions imposed by the British and Irish governments on media interviews with 11 Irish organisations.

At the time the ban was announced, Hurd made it clear that the IRA and Sinn Fein were the primary targets, and that his intention was to deny them publicity.

"What people hear on television is not the Sinn Fein politicians being grilled by journalists. What they hear is supporters of Sinn Fein glorifying in violence and death. That is what we propose to stop," Hurd said.

At the same time, the government announced plans to revoke the right of silence for persons suspected of terrorist acts in Northern Ireland.

Arguing against the broadcast ban, Pannick accused Hurd of breaching Article 10 of the European Convention on Human Rights by interfering with freedom of speech "in circumstances where there is no pressing social need for it."

The full court hearing was expected to be held before the end of March.

COLUMN

Cupid reigns in U.S.

NEW YORK (AP) — Most Americans believe there's enough romance in their lives, and they reject the theory that a child takes the romance out of marriage, according to a poll released Tuesday by Parents Magazine. In a national survey of adults, 70 per cent of respondents said they had enough romance in their lives. Twenty-three per cent said they had too little romance, and an intriguing three per cent claimed to have more than they could handle. As far as children and marriage, 37 per cent termed it a myth that the combination kills romance. But 39 per cent said they felt that when a child arrives, Cupid leaves. The telephone poll, with a margin of error of plus or minus three percentage points, was conducted in September and October. Sixty-five per cent of the respondents were married.

Cat returns home after eight years

BANCROFT, Wisconsin (AP) — After eight years of unknown adventures, Clem the cat returned to its original owners. "I heard some meowing out on the front porch last Friday," Kurt Helminiak said. "When I opened the door, there stood a big, long-haired, gray male cat. He walked into the house, checked it out for a few minutes, then he purred and jumped up onto his favourite chair like he had never been gone." Helminiak said his family were incredulous at first, but he and his wife, Julie, compared the cat with pictures they had taken eight years earlier and confirmed Clem had come home. "I let him out one cold night...and snowing and blowing, and he never came back," he said.

Baker takes presidential cake

QUINCY, Massachusetts (AP) — Amid the preparations for U.S. President-elect George Bush's inauguration, George Montilio takes the cake. Actually, he will be taking about 20,000 boxed cakes to Washington, D.C., for Friday's festivities. "We put the call in to the inaugural committee and asked them if we could do the cake and they called back and said, 'sure, we'd love it,'" said Montilio, whose father used Washington connections to provide confections at President Ronald Reagan's 1980 inauguration. Baking the presidential pastries should be completed by Wednesday, said Montilio. Montilio's Bakery's contributions will be 10.2-by-12.7-centimetre individual white cakes with buttercream frosting. The ingredients include 363 kilograms of flour, 13 kilograms of baking powder, 5.4 kilograms of salt, 118 kilograms of butter and shortening, 454 kilograms of sugar and 480 eggs whites, as well as cream of tartar, vanilla and milk.

Balloonist to make first solo crossing

TOKYO (AP) — A Japanese adventurer will attempt an 8,000-kilometre solo crossing of the Pacific Ocean in a helium-filled balloon which he designed, it was announced Wednesday. Fumio Niwa, 38, will attempt the flight in a balloon with a gondola Feb. 11 from Yokohama, south of Tokyo, to a site yet to be decided along the U.S. west coast, said Kazuyuki Kodama, one of 20 officials engaged in the project. He plans to complete the trip in three or four days. In 1981, a four-man crew from Japan and the United States successfully completed a trans-Pacific crossing in a balloon, but Kodama said this would be the first time anyone has tried it alone.

Press attacks Andrew, Sarah

LONDON (AP) — Britain's tabloid newspaper Tuesday accused Prince Andrew and his wife, Sarah, of being the "no-work royals," and said their current Swiss ski holiday proved the pair did nothing useful. Headlines such as "Tough Old Life, Isn't It Andrew?" and "No-Work Royals on the Piste" were splashed above colour pictures of the duke and duchess of York in their bright pink and green ski suits. The couple arrived Monday for a four-day holiday at the Klosters ski resort, where an avalanche last year narrowly missed Andrew's brother, Prince Charles, and killed their friend Major Hugh Lindsay. "And as the couple frolicked on the ski slopes here, working Britons were asking: 'Are they ever on duty?'" asked the Sun, Britain's most widely circulated newspaper.

Violence erupts anew in black Miami neighbourhood

MIAMI (R) — Violence erupted in a black Miami neighbourhood for the second straight day Tuesday as an angry crowd hurled rocks and bottles at police and set fire to a car following the fatal shooting of a black motorcyclist by a white policeman.

Police in riot gear rushed into the street in overtime — a predominantly black section north of downtown Miami — and tried to disperse the crowd with tear-gas. Officers in another part of overtime were pinned down by sniper fire.

In a separate incident earlier in the day, a motorist passing through overtime was attacked by rock-throwing youths. He fired into the crowd, wounding a black teenager in the hip, police said. The victim was rushed to a local hospital.

Police spokesman Angelo Bitts said it was still unclear why on Monday night the officer, identified as William Lozano, 30, had opened fire on the unarmed motorcyclist and his passenger.

The motorcyclist died from gunshot wounds, and a man riding with him died Tuesday in hospital of injuries which occurred when the cycle crashed after the shooting.

Lozano, a four-year veteran of the force, was relieved of duty pending the outcome of an investigation.

Justice Department spokesman Mark Weaver said in Washington a Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) probe — requested by the head of the Civil Rights Division — would begin immediately and would include interviews with police officers.

He said the FBI would try to determine if there had been any violations of federal civil rights laws.

A Miami police spokesman said sporadic acts of violence were breaking out throughout overtime and were spreading to Liberty City, an adjacent black neighbourhood in which 1980 rioting claimed 18 lives, also the end result of white policemen

shooting and killing a black motorcyclist.

As a crowd of around 50 youths surged towards the Miami basketball arena in the heart of overtime, city manager Cesar Odio abruptly cancelled a game between the Miami Heat and the Phoenix Suns, citing possible danger to fans.

It was the second straight day of racial violence in Miami as thousands of football fans and reporters poured into the city for the Super Bowl Football Championship Sunday.

A crowd of up to 200 people took to the streets Monday night, setting fire to several cars and buildings, looting shops and hurling rocks at police, television news crews and motorists.

The six-hour siege ended early Tuesday as hundreds of heavily armed police imposed a near-blockade on the streets of overtime.

But, after several hours of calm, violence flared again.

Heart research shows it's okay to be a workaholic

MONTEREY, California (R) — Cheer up, workaholics. The latest research on heart disease shows it's okay to be a fanatic about your job.

But if you're hostile, suspicious of others' motives and have a hard time controlling your anger, you are far more likely to die at an early age than your friends who are trusting souls, Dr. Redford Williams of the Duke University Medical Centre said Monday.

"Being a workaholic, always being in a hurry, talking fast and always interrupting are not always bad for your health," Williams told an American Heart Association forum here.

"What is bad is anger and hostility and not always being able to hide it," he said.

Williams said the latest research spells the end of the notion that so-called "type A" behaviour leads to an early death from heart disease.

such behaviour are at fault, he said the most recent studies show.

Specifically, people who are found, via standard psychological tests, to harbour a cynical mistrust of others' motives, to frequently experience anger and to openly express that anger are "five times more likely to die going from age 25 to age 50" than those without those traits, said Williams, who is a professor of psychiatry at Duke.

The moral: "Trusting hearts last longer," Williams told the meeting.

He advised people who flare up in a slow bank queue or constantly challenge their tennis partners' out-of-bounds calls to teach themselves to ease up and live longer.

Williams' research was an attempt to refine studies performed in the late 1970s suggesting that impatient, ambitious, hostile people — those with type A personalities — were more likely over time to suffer from

heart disease than more easy-going individuals.

He compared individuals' longevity with their responses to individual questions on a standard psychological test administered over a quarter of a century ago. The different questions were intended to identify a large variety of different behavioural types.

He discovered that only some aspects of type A behaviour were linked to a greater risk of heart disease.

This may be due in part, he said, to the fact that people with high hostility scores on psychological tests smoke more, drink alcohol more and report more frequent hassles in their everyday life.

Williams said he believes the effect is caused by the makeup of an individual's nervous system.

He said there is preliminary evidence that non-hostile individuals have a more effective parasympathetic branch of their nervous systems.